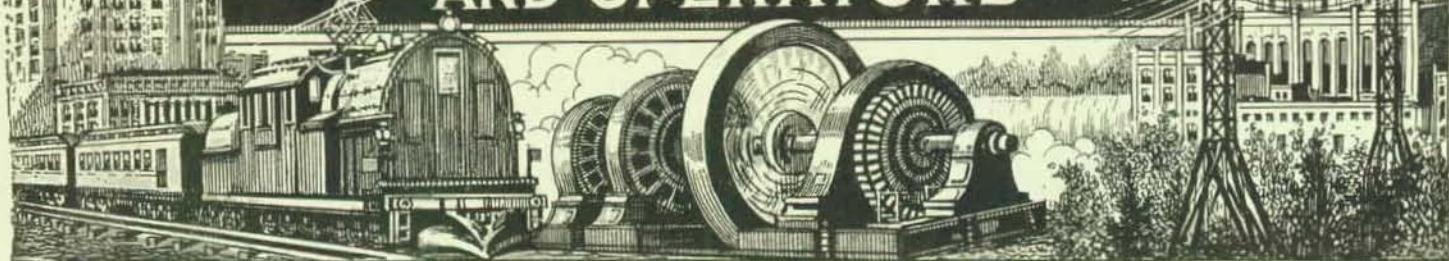


# The Journal of **ELECTRICAL WORKERS** AND OPERATORS



RECORDING · THE · ELECTRICAL · ERA

VOL. XXXI

WASHINGTON, D. C., FEBRUARY, 1932

NO. 2



## Need for Public Works

# GEORGE WASHINGTON

1732



1932

All eyes are turned toward the City of Washington, and all roads lead to Washington for the celebration of the 200th birthday anniversary of George Washington, the first president of the united colonies.

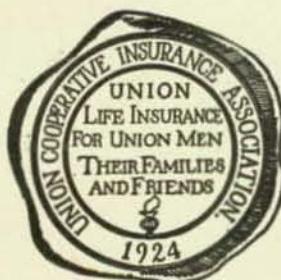
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**Magazine Chat**

Perhaps husbands don't read the women's pages of this magazine. But the stirring appeal made by the Worker's Wife to assess the value of unionism clearly, in these troubled times, makes good reading for men as well as women.

We doubt that anyone regrets that Bachie is back in these columns as regular official correspondent from the fashion city. Bachie's sprightly letters are good medicine for depression blues.

E. A. Fritz, L. U. No. 26, believes that the electrical workers have a real future. He writes, "The electrical workers of today, if properly handled and organized, are undoubtedly the most powerful force of wage earners on earth." Fritz makes a plea for wider organization in every branch.

**Warning!**

It has come to the attention of the International Office that money is being obtained under false pretenses by persons who claim membership in the Brotherhood. LOCAL UNIONS ARE HEREBY WARNED NOT TO LOAN OR GIVE MONEY TO STRANGERS BECAUSE OF HARD LUCK STORIES. The Constitution provides financial appeals must first be submitted to the I. O. for approval —this to protect our local unions from fraud.

We owe thanks to the publicity director of the Century of Progress (Chicago's World Fair) for the photograph on the front cover. This represents the electrical building in the process of erection. Chicago's spirit of "I will" drives the city forward under heavy difficulties.



Courtesy Los Angeles Bureau of Power and Light

A DOORWAY IN LOS ANGELES

This Is a Symbol of the All-Electric Apartments, Flooded With Soft Radiance From Concealed Lamps, Now so Popular on the West Coast





# THE JOURNAL OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS & OPERATORS

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WASHINGTON, D. C., FEBRUARY, 1932

No. 2

## Only Fiscal Politics Can Halt Public Works

PASSAGE of credit bills, including the act creating the \$2,000,000,000 Reconstruction Finance Corporation, takes needed steps for business recovery, but can only loosen congealed assets, and not give jobs. Before millions of jobless can be put to work, the industrial machine must be set moving, and only the construction industry can do this thing. Private enterprise is powerless to start building.

The logic of a public works program was strongly backed in 1928 by President Hoover, and many state executives.

Though business men and bankers are loath to give the public works bills in Congress any vital support, their attitude is expected to change rapidly, if the Reconstruction Finance Corporation does not produce the expected result of bringing billions of dollars out of hiding.

Two crucial factors in the situation have become increasingly clear:

(1) Much needed public construction, totalling billions awaits impetus.

(2) The federal government alone has credit power to institute a public works program.

Other important facts bearing upon the question of opposing the depression with triumphant action are:

(3) Building contracts for the first three months of 1932 are forecast as 25 per cent below 1931, which was a bad year.

(4) Scheduled public utility construction has been greatly curtailed.

(5) Municipalities are broke, and cannot project relief plans.

(6) Only bankers and not economists oppose public works measures.

(7) Though the federal government has paid several billion dollars for credit relief, it still could raise \$5,000,000,000 for public works and not be further in debt than it was in 1919, following the war.

March is expected to see the crisis reached in this campaign for jobless relief.

### I. Methodology

A full year before the fateful stock market crash, thoughtful men were viewing the possibility of a slump, and setting up a program. One of the particular economic proposals of 1928, which attracted wide-spread attention, was that of Cutchings and Foster, set up in their book, "Road to Plenty." Their

Way clears for passage of La Follette bill. President Hoover's support of similar plan in 1928 recalled. Economists rally to scheme. Need of physical reconstruction of U.S. revealed. Financial reconstruction thaws assets, but gives no jobs. Uncle Sam has the credit.

proposal had the support of President Hoover, in this way. Governor Brewster, of Maine, was a former student of Mr. William Trufant Foster, co-author of the plan. Governor Brewster went to New Orleans in November, 1928, to the Congress of Governors as President Hoover's personal representative. Governor Brewster presented the Cutchings and Foster plan to end slumps, with the President's full approval.

### Enough Production

Quotations from the "Road to Plenty" provide theoretical and practical support for a public works program:

"I conclude from these very facts that we must provide as effectively for financing consumption in the future, as in the past we have provided for financing production. As a rule, underconsumption is the chief trouble; therefore the right flow of money to consumers is the chief need. The question is, How can we get the right flow? \* \* \*

"We have agreed that this country is fully equipped to increase the output of goods; that the country is, in fact, wasting much of its savings by investing them in productive facilities which cannot be used. Moreover, the people want and ought to have a plenty. They do not create it because it can't be sold. It can't be sold because consumers never long obtain the right amount of money for the purpose. \* \* \*

"So, if business paid back to consumers all the money it received from consumers, and consumers spent all the money—that is to say, if there were no savings—there would be a steady circuit flow, and no trouble at all about selling a given volume of goods at a given level of prices. \* \* \*

"All of which means that the flow of money to consumers must be increased at the right rate. \* \* \*

"In other words, as long as the building of new factories, railroads, tele-

phone lines, and so on, brings about a sufficient expansion of money in circulation, the markets for the products of the old capital facilities are brisk enough to keep business prosperous. As long as that condition lasts, savings do not cause a shortage of consumer buying. But such construction never long continues in the right volume. \* \* \*

### Banks Can Help

"That it is impossible for any country to use the facilities it already has, to a sufficient extent to keep business prosperous, unless it continues to expand bank credit at the right rate in connection with the building of new facilities.

"I suppose you mean that in order to enable the people to buy the output of our present facilities, we have to build new ones; and then, in order that the people may buy the output of the new ones, we have to build more new ones. \* \* \*

"When governments finance public works by loans which involve expansion of bank credit, as is often the case, they do add to consumer income. Government bonds, for example, are often used by the owners as collateral for bank loans. Again, whenever the necessity of paying taxes forces men to borrow money from banks, the result may be an expansion of bank credit, even though the borrowers pay their taxes out of cash on hand, and are then forced to borrow money for other uses. \* \* \*

"Governments thus add to consumer income, without adding to the goods which consumers are expected to buy. So public expenditures of that kind surely do help business, whenever consumer demand is inadequate. \* \* \*

### Cost Country Nothing

"At present there is no agency which does for business in general what the Federal Reserve System does for the money market. Now I propose the setting-up of an agency which shall take the leadership in bringing about measures to stop that rising spiral of business inflation of which we spoke at the outset, as soon as it gets started; and equally prompt measures to stop the falling spiral of deflation, once that gets started. \* \* \*

"Such projects would put into circulation, as wages, all the money our plan could possibly require for decades to come. In that way, we could sustain business and at the same time acquire wealth. Public works built in that way might actually cost the country nothing; for if they were not built, the country might lose more than they cost, through the idleness of men and of capital savings."

Governor Brewster, as the president's spokesman, presented the foregoing concepts to the conference of governors. In conclusion, he said:

"Picture the approach of an economic crisis with unemployment threatening on every hand. The release of \$3,000,000,000 in construction contracts by public and quasi-public authority would remedy or ameliorate the situation in the twinkling of an eye. Federal indexes are already becoming available that remove the problem from the domain of speculation or opinion and place the need upon a basis of simple facts.

"No centralization of authority is proposed but merely the creation of a condition by concerted action that shall make possible, a remedy that will appeal persuasively to all. Follow the flow of those \$3,000,000,000 to the contractor, to the laborer, to the material man, to the factory, to the factory employees, to the merchants, to the farmers. It goes like the house that Jack built and unemployment is at an end."

#### **Hoover Authorizes Statement**

**"These views of the way in which the states and other public authority may co-operate with the Federal government in controlling in some measure construction work for the common good are presented to the Conference of Governors at the request of Herbert Hoover as an authorized exposition of a portion of his program for stabilizing the prosperity of the United States.**

"In requesting the presentation of this project to the Conference of Governors, Mr. Hoover emphasized the importance of establishing co-operation between federal, state and municipal governments. Neither ruthless competition nor blighting monopoly with its inevitable public control is the goal of America. Co-operation is the keynote of the new economic day. Co-operation implies individual units that spell incentive to achieve."

The soundness of this proposal has been given full endorsement by many economists. A group of 46 economists have published a formal report entitled "Economists' Plan for Accelerating Public Works in 1932." This report says:

"The immediate adoption of a large scale program of public and possibly semi-public construction is now an urgently pressing need. We raised billions of dollars in loans to finance the Great War. The total American outlay at the time was, according to a recent study by Professor J. M. Clark, over 35 billion dollars. An emergency of magnitude comparable to that of a war is now upon us, and to meet it we need to raise billions of dollars for the purpose not of manufacturing munitions or sending soldiers to Europe, but to constructing roads, bridges, reclamation and flood control projects, reforestation and elimination of grade crossings, and public buildings. With courageous leadership and the patriotic spirit aroused by a national emergency

#### **Is There Need For Public Works?**

Increasing the school plant 10 per cent	\$542,000,000
Replanning 25,000 rural schools	250,000,000
Placing a public garage in each of 346 cities having population of 25,000 or over	346,000,000
Placing a municipal hospital in each of 346 cities having population of 25,000 or over	346,000,000
Reclaiming slum areas. Optional estimate—New York alone has 40 per cent of population living in slum tenements. It would take \$6,000,000,000 to reclaim there. Other cities are bad. U. S. has "worst slums in the world"	10,000,000,000
Quasi-public electrification of farms	500,000,000

the achievement of such a program is possible of accomplishment. \* \* \*

#### **Entirely Practicable**

"The spending of from four to six billion dollars on public works within the next year and a half appears entirely feasible. In recent survey, a construction engineer of wide experience in public works during the war found that an emergency public and semi-public work program entailing an expenditure of \$5,400,000,000, during the year 1932 was entirely practicable. Professor Leo Wolman of Columbia University, who conducted research on the planning and control of public works for the Committee on Recent Economic Changes of the President's Conference on Unemployment, advocated last April the prompt expenditure of several billion dollars on public works. In asking for this expenditure he noted the obstacle of administrative difficulties but declared, 'It is unthinkable that after the lapse of a year and a half the essential elements of a huge program of public construction can not be found in Washington'."

The economists signing this report are:

Thomas N. Carver, Harvard University.

Paul H. Douglas, University of Chicago.

W. N. Loucks, University of Pennsylvania.

James C. Bonbright, Columbia University.

Paul F. Brissenden, Columbia University.

R. M. MacIver, Columbia University. Merryle Stanley Rukeyser, Columbia University.

Willard L. Thorp, Amherst College.

George R. Taylor, Amherst College.

Phillips Bradley, Amherst College.

William T. Foster, Director, Pollack Foundation.

Arthur Evans Wood, University of Michigan.

Frank H. Streightoff, Indiana University.

Thomas S. Luck, Indiana University.

N. J. Ware, Wesleyan University.

C. O. Fisher, Wesleyan University.

John Ise, University of Kansas.

Seba Eldridge, University of Kansas.

Arthur Gayer, Barnard College.

Gordon B. Hancock, Virginia Union University.

H. H. McCarty, University of Iowa.

Le Roy E. Bowman, The National Community Center Association.

Edwin A. Elliott, Texas Christian University.

David D. Vaughan, Boston University.

Everett W. Goodhue, Dartmouth College.

Edward Berman, University of Illinois.

C. W. Doten, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Truman C. Bigham, University of Florida.

Walter J. Matherly, University of Florida.

John E. Brindley, Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.

Jacob E. Le Rossignol, University of Nebraska.

John A. Ryan, National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Nathan Isaacs, Harvard University.

Richard S. Meriam, Harvard University.

H. H. Comish, Oregon State Agricultural College.

Henry A. Grady, University of California.

Charles A. Gulick, Jr., University of California.

Ira B. Cross, University of California.

T. N. Beckman, Ohio State University.

A. P. R. Drucker, Colorado College.

R. A. Stevenson, University of Minnesota.

John R. Mez, University of Oregon.

J. L. Palmer, University of Chicago.

David A. McCabe, Princeton University.

Isador Lubin, Brookings Institution.

Lewis L. Lorwin, Brookings Institution.

#### **II. Disgraceful Need**

One of the principal arguments used against public works proposals is that there is no vital need for such projects. The opponents—usually bankers and business men—types, who readily advocate billions for war measures—fear that buildings, bridges, roads and such improvements will be of the make-work variety—unnecessary, a charitable drag on the market.

This, of course, is a "made" argument. It has validity, perhaps, as protection against taxing incomes for social purposes. It has no validity as a "reason." America is not finished. It has all the haphazard, sprawling irregularity of a frontier nation, which has grown too rapidly, under the impetus of a drive for wealth from rich natural resources.

#### **Unfinished Cities**

America does not compare favorably with less rich, but older, more stabilized nations in the way of modernization. This is vividly revealed by the national

capital. In Washington, one would expect progress, but until 1931 when the federal plan of improvement made rapid progress, Washington had many aspects of a country town. Pennsylvania Avenue, one of the world's better-known thoroughfares, was lined with cheap, dirty, dilapidated structures tenanted by junk shops, souvenir stores, Chinese laundries and fortune-telling establishments. Now this great street begins to take on the look of a national promenade, ranking with the finest in the world. What Washington is beginning to do, all America could initiate.

The need is emphasized further by the promised falling off in private construction in 1932. This is the most serious aspect of the present disaster.

#### **Building Slumps Lower**

Electric utilities have announced that they will spend 28 per cent less in 1932 than in 1931, and 53 per cent less than in 1930.

#### **Construction by Electric Utilities**

1930	\$967,000,000
1931	554,000,000
1932	455,000,000

At the same time the F. W. Dodge Corporation predicts a 25 per cent falling off of all construction in the first three months of 1932.

#### **Construction in 37 States**

January, February, March, 1931	\$833,000,000
-----------------------------------	---------------

January, February, March,  
1932 ----- 600,000,000

How jobs are going to multiply under such discouraging conditions is hard to see. Only a well-planned, vigorous public works policy can bring about an adjustment of this unbalance of construction.

#### **Schools Are Underbuilt**

The need for public improvements in the building field is large. American schools are notably underbuilt. No major city has adequate school housing.

**Hundreds of thousands of students are in portables. Classes are crowded —35 rather than 25 per teacher is the rule.**

Platoon—or shift system—is still used in high schools where crowding persists.

The school compulsory age of 16 could well be increased to 18, or even 21. This would relieve pressure on job-scarce industry, and mean a greater competency for the on-coming generation, but it would demand greater equipment.

The agreed efficient service life of a modern school is 15 years. Many buildings are now 50 to 75 years old.

In 1925, it was estimated that seats for 2,000,000 pupils were needed. The condition is little improved.

About 5,000,000 boys and girls are attending one-room inadequate country schools.

Only \$376,000,000 was spent in school in 1930, and only \$228,000,000 in 1931.

The school plant is estimated to be worth \$5,425,000,000. A 10 per cent increase in this plant—a conservative figure—would mean construction to the amount of \$542,000,000.

In addition, 25,000 rural schools could well be replaced by modern structures.

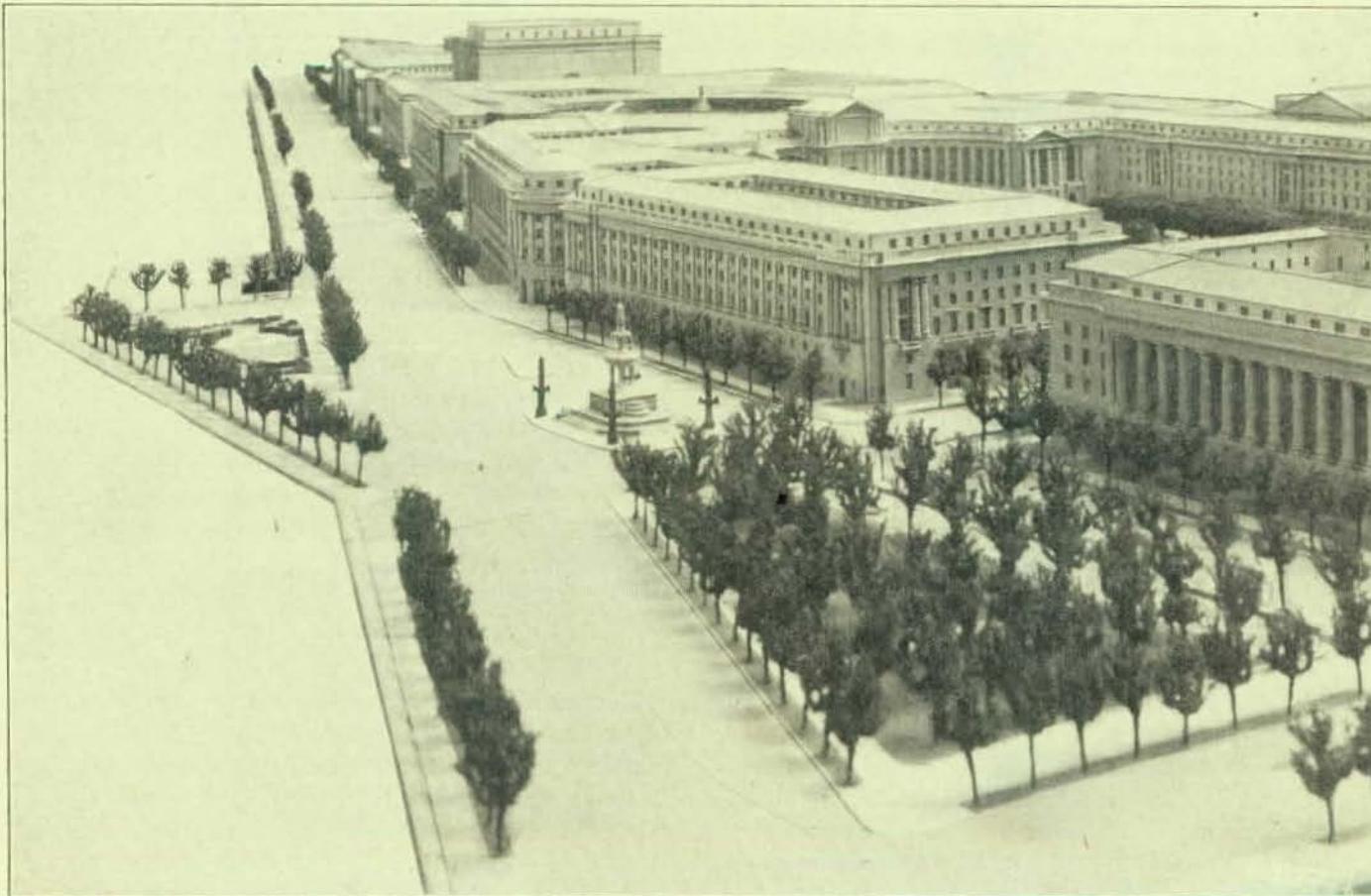
#### **Traffic Situation Unfaced**

Another need of American cities—not a chimerical need—is public garages. The traffic problem, and its adjunct, the parking problem, grows steadily worse. American cities—as cities—have virtually refused to face this situation. Public garages appear to be one sure and eventual solution. Most motorists cannot afford the prohibitive cost of all day parking in private garages. A public garage with moderate charges would be generously patronized.

Hospitalization for the masses with a spread of municipal hospitals, would well meet a social need.

Behind these needed—not fanciful improvements—lies a vast, almost illimitable field for development—the reclamation of American slums. And the salient fact about slum reclamation is that it must be done under municipal, state or federal guidance. Private capital shrinks from such a social field of work. Profits are uncertain and small.

(Continued on page 105)



PUBLIC WORKS AS A REMEDY HAS PASSED THE THEORETICAL STAGE. THE NATIONAL CAPITAL KNOWS. ABOVE IS A PART OF A DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS RAPIDLY BECOMING A REALITY.

## COMMENT

By

PRESIDENT BROACH

TALK has wrecked more unions than anything we know. The Philistines were not the only ones to be slaughtered by an ass's jawbone. Men often destroy the very aims of organization by talking at each other, against each other and straight into the air. They must have their say, must talk, should talk—if only for the sake of talking.

If humans are born with a sinful weakness, it's their passion to talk—regardless of results. Many talk themselves into prison, into exhaustion. Men organize for strength. But often their only group strength comes from the lungs of individuals.

When there is too much talk at meetings, men become disgusted and discouraged. It kills interest, morale and attendance. It's easy to talk a union to death. Still many men try to meet each situation with more talk. And how differently they handle their individual affairs from those of their group.

Here is an example outside of unions: Some Ohio men planned a new club house. They had the money and the land, but wrangled over details. Talk and fuss continued at each meeting. Finally one member complained:

"We have talked and talked, still we have no club house. I want to see it built before I die, so let us assign one man to get the job done and let him alone."

The motion carried. All committees were discharged. One man accepted the task only on condition that all talk cease and no member enter the

new place until its completion. Soon the club house opened—and all was well.

President Roosevelt provided a lesson. After years of delay in building the great Panama Canal, he decided the committee and commission business, talk and fuss, wouldn't do. He put Colonel Goethals in supreme charge. Roosevelt was bitterly criticized for granting "too much power". But from then on men saw action and results.

Conditions are not as we want them. Many are terrible. But we believe this organization would have been torn to shreds in this depression by gas, fuss and obstruction, had not our laws and policies been modernized and systematized. Surely more things would soon be done if we devoted only one-fourth as much time to doing as to talking and fussing. Action, not talk, is the motive power of a producing organization.

A new union officer writes us how strong his members are for him. Fine! It's most encouraging. But he must look out. Many will turn on him quickly—and some for no particular reason. Men are made that way. Many in his corner tonight will be in the other fellow's corner tomorrow night. Many, singing his praises today, will be throwing bricks tomorrow, no matter what he does. They love it. Men are humans after all—and they run true to form.

Not many possess true loyalty to anybody. Many honestly think they do. But fear, pressure, sickleness, make men go backwards. They readily pledge support. But when clouds appear—or when you cannot or will not do all they ask—see

them squirm and scatter, and do mental hand-springs. This is one of the first lessons a union official must learn. It was taught us years ago.

The official must study his men, know them. He should prepare himself for hostility, unkindness, trickery, envy, flattery. He cannot escape these. If not prepared, the blow will be terrible. He will become heartsick, mentally sick—or bitter and vindictive. Then his spirit and usefulness go fast.

This union work is sometimes a crusher. It's often heartbreakng. The pressure, worry and grief are usually terrific. The earnest, energetic, serious man has a constant battle with himself. Always he must watch himself, check himself, hold on to himself. Always he must fight for open-mindedness—and fight to prevent others reaching conclusions without facts.

Few men have an open mind on any question. Many say they have. They seem utterly unable to separate prejudice and desire from fact. It is said "the more ignorant a man is the more positive he is in his opinions". Still, one may be well informed, very able and intelligent—but tight-minded. In any case, a tight-minded man is a danger to himself and others.

What a man does depends on what he believes. That's why it's so important he strive for an open mind. "As he thinks so he is", the saying goes. That's why his beliefs are so important. It explains wars, why man fights man. His beliefs count the most. They are his life. And, sadly, most men's beliefs are more precious to them than the truth. Hence the fight between the few who want correct understanding and those who do not.

One idea or opinion usually holds sway with the tight-minded fellow. He closes the door to

all else. His mind is "set". He wants only argument or evidence to support the desire or opinion he already has, instead of trying to learn truths. He acts on impulse. He invariably goes off half-cocked. He always tells what he THINKS instead of what he KNOWS.

An open mind is a great achievement. We cannot always be sure we have it. The man who has it is never afraid to change his mind. He knows how easy it is to be wrong. He considers evidence against his own opinions. He holds back making up his mind until all sides are heard. He weighs carefully. Such a man is always respected and trusted most.

Perhaps the saddest phase of these sad times is that so little will be remembered. So little will be learned by those hit hardest. So few will profit by the bitter lessons. Happy or sad, contented or miserable, humans always run true to form. So many seem determined not to help themselves.

When a man shouts for what he calls his rights, usually it means he wants what he wants—regardless of what others want, or need, or have a right to. He cannot soften his own desires. He has no insight whatever into the well-being or ill-being of the group. Such a man rarely learns anything new. He is blind to almost everything except what HE WANTS.

The only one who makes no mistakes is he who does nothing. "Such a man's entire life is an open mistake", says Chas. P. Ford. But the important thing is how one acts after his errors.

"He is not wise who makes no mistakes. There are not and cannot be such men. He is wise who makes mistakes and who is able to correct them easily and quickly."

H.H. Broach

# Tales Heroic and Tragic Seep Through Press

**E**XTRAORDINARILY mild weather during the months of December and January served somewhat to obscure the extent of suffering due to the depression. Most men, whether religiously inclined or not, looked upon the mild weather as a form of benevolent Providence to the poor, though lack of snow did cut off thousands of men from jobs that might have materialized. Early in February a terrific cold snap, extending from the northwest to the Gulf of Mexico, brought out anew the tragedy of unemployment. These stories, individual and statistical, do not get into the daily press, for it takes an accumulation of sorrows to give a true picture of the awfulness of hardship that the masses are being asked to endure. There is little doubt that the sacrifices entailed by the war were nothing to be compared to those of the present.

Certain social gains are reported by the optimistic. It is believed that a definite gain in family morale has been made during the depression. Hunger and hardship serve to bring members of the family closer together, it is said, and teaches them anew the value of sympathetic co-operation.

The Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor reports that children in many parts of the United States are suffering permanent injury as a result of the present depression. It appears that children suffer the most. As if to bear this general statement out, a report comes from Pittsburgh to the effect that children are starving there. The correspondent says, "Get this picture. A mal-nourished child—you think of famine photos, or skin and bone. In Pittsburgh it is not so. You see a baby two years old. It is not thin. It simply looks like a pretty one-year-old baby; stunted—no resistance—first cold takes it off." The Children's Bureau emphasized especially the terrible suffering in the coal mine districts where there has been no work for months.

#### Forty Per Cent of Population Hit

A careful unemployment census, taken in Syracuse, N. Y., reveals that one man out of every five is jobless, and one out of five on part time. This means that 40 per cent of the population is seriously handicapped and penalized as a result of the present disaster.

The Birmingham Labor Advocate pictures the conditions in that section of Alabama. It says:

"A lot of people are either kidding themselves or trying to kid others when they try to minimize the situation in this district. It is the worst it has ever been. There are more hungry men, women and children in this county and city than ever before, 10 times over. Ten thousand men are out of work and another 10,000 are working on a part-time basis, or at such a reduced wage that it serves merely to keep body and

**Underlying population passing through hardships which make the great war look like a game of checkers. Extent of suffering little known. Mutual aid is shown.**

soul together. The city authorities state that more than 12,000 men have signed applications for work on the drainage projects and other work done by the city. This work pays about \$2 per day, and we are told that a worker can only put three days a week on the job in order that others may work a little to earn enough to buy plain food.

#### No Work, Much Worry

"Men stand on the streets worrying about the dependents at home, tramping about seeking employment that is not. Mutters are heard, which, if relief is not forthcoming soon, will rise to cries of anger. A potential menace is present. Americans will soon cease to starve in a land of plenty. They will become desperate over the cries of wives and children without food and warmth, and when they begin to do things, don't blame it on the Reds, but blame it on those who have juggled the nation's wealth to make more for themselves, caring not that millions of Americans are forced to starve while those who control the money of the nation are glutted to satiety. Respect for law and constituted authority has broken down. Politicians holding offices by the sufferance of the people go about in smug satisfaction and do nothing and try nothing that will bring relief. Respect for these has ceased and a contempt has taken its place."

The Family Welfare Association of America reports huge increases in the number of families requesting help. It says that conditions in 88 cities are worse now than at any time before, because of bank failures, inability to pay taxes, shorter working hours in factories, enforced vacations without pay,

extended layoffs in garment and shoe trades, and because there is little work in steel mills, lumber yards, oil fields, shoe factories, shipping industry and railroads. A 70 per cent increase in evictions is noted. Applications for charitable aid show a notable increase among the white collar group. Many families have had their electricity shut off and are using kerosene lamps.

#### Starvation a Reality

In the city of Chicago, in the heart of America, the Chicago Daily News reported late in January that only a small relief fund, capable of supplying help for five days, stood between 600,000 men, women and children and starvation.

A social agency executive of the city of New York announced that "unprecedented destitution" exists in that city, that thousands of men, women and children are faced with starvation.

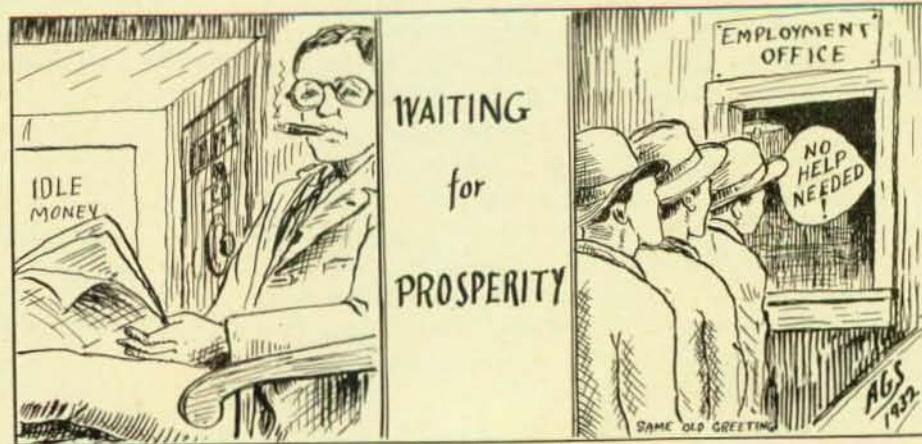
The Illinois Miner, organ of the United Mine Workers of America, reports that 200,000 people in Illinois are without any means of support.

The joint committee on unemployment, supported by various labor unions, reports 241,000 unemployed in Philadelphia and 156,000 on part time; at Cleveland, 100,000 needy families; Cincinnati, 45,000 unemployed; 225,000 in Los Angeles; 50,000 in Seattle.

This is not a cheerful picture. And yet, it must be faced on a large canvas in this way in order to get some idea of the magnitude of the suffering.

It is in the face of these conditions that reactionary politicians, business men and bankers say, "there must be no federal aid."

The candid citizen must confess that if the policy of the government upon vital questions affecting the whole people is to be irrevocably fixed by decisions of the Supreme Court, the instant they are made in ordinary litigation between parties in personal actions, the people will have ceased to be their own rulers, having to that extent practically resigned their government into the hands of that eminent tribunal.—Abraham Lincoln.



# Federal Credit Capable of Public Works Aid

By ISADOR LUBIN

THE federal government in organizing the Reconstruction Finance Corporation has created a piece of machinery which may put a stop to the toboggan course of American industry. In effect, we have declared a moratorium for those who will be eligible borrowers from this newly organized financial institution. That is to say, at the behest of the President, Congress has said to the railroads, the public utilities, and the business interests: "If you cannot pay the interest due on your obligations, if you cannot pay off your bonds as they mature, in other words, if your credit on the present market is such that you cannot raise the funds to meet your debts, come to us. Leave with us such collateral as the market will not now accept and we shall pay your obligations for you. Pay us back later on when and if conditions change." To the banks we have said in effect, "If you cannot pay off your depositors when they demand what is legally theirs we will advance the funds for you."

All of this may be of tremendous aid in stopping the further suspension of banks, the bankruptcy of our railroads and our large industrial institutions. It may keep conditions from getting worse. But it does nothing to start the wheels of industry turning again. It does nothing to get men jobs. Under our system of private enterprise the only force which can drive employers to hire labor, to place orders for raw materials, to reopen their plants—in short, to spend money—is the prospect of profits. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation furnishes no new prospects of profits to our business interests. If we are to revive economic activity, therefore, some body which does not depend on profits as the motive force to activity must start the ball rolling. That body is the federal government. I say "the federal government" advisedly, for it is the only governing body in the United States today whose credit is such that it can raise the necessary funds.

#### Public Works Only Course

The only way the federal government can spend sums sufficiently large to cause a turn in conditions is through a large program of public works. There are thousands of miles of federal highways which need widening and resurfacing; thousands of bridges that need rebuilding and strengthening; thousands of grade crossings of our main highways taking their annual toll of hundreds of human lives that should be eliminated. There are public buildings which have long been planned for throughout the country and need to be built.

One need not go into further details. It takes little imagination to become aware of the innumerable things that can be done. No one will deny that some day in the not distant future this

**Economist, who has been associated with Senator La Follette and Senator Wagner in forming public works measures, analyzes financial situation. Urges constructive aid for jobless.**

work will be done. Why not do it today when it will be of value in starting the industrial machine going once more?

Not only will the wages paid to labor on these projects revive the purchase of clothes, shoes, furniture, and the hundred and one other things our workers and their families have been deprived of during the past two years, thus giving employment to workers in the textile, lumber, leather, clothing, and shoe factories, but the orders for cement, timber, steel, and the 23 other important commodities which go into the projects mentioned above will cause employment of workers in these industries also.

Nor should one overlook the billions of dollars worth of necessary projects—water supply systems, state and county roads, city streets, schools, and the like—which many of the cities and states would today undertake were they in a position to borrow the necessary funds. In a very large number of cases the plans and preparations for this work have already been made and work could be started within 30 days once the money was available. The needs of the industrial situation demand that the federal government loan these funds to the cities and states so that a stimulus may be provided to private industry to start going again.

#### Can Aid Private Builders

Finally, billions are needed to wipe out the slums which today because of the loss of wage incomes are crowded until their very walls bulge. We have not reached the stage in this country where we look upon the furnishing of

decent and healthy housing facilities as coming within the range of governmental function. The government can, however, induce private industry immediately to start rebuilding our slum areas by getting the cities and states to exempt new low rent buildings from taxation and by either bearing part of the cost of loaning the necessary funds to groups that are willing to undertake the task. Housing authorities insist that work to the value of hundreds of millions would be started before the spring if the federal government would make available to limited dividend corporations as little as one quarter of the cost of erecting low rental apartments.

Surely several billions would not be too much to pay to get industry moving upward again. If a large public works program should start the industrial machine going forward the wages, the profits, and the interest that would start flowing would within a year amount to triple if not quadruple the initial cost.

Despite the contentions to the contrary the necessary funds can be made available. The federal government has committed itself directly to give \$500,000,000 for the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and indirectly \$1,500,000,000 more. Surely if this income can be secured for thawing out "frozen assets" as much can be gotten for putting people to work.

If a friend of mine . . . gave a feast, and did not invite me to it, I should not mind a bit . . . But if . . . a friend of mine had a sorrow and refused to allow me to share it, I should feel it most bitterly. If he shut the doors of the house of mourning against me, I would move back again and again and beg to be admitted, so that I might share in what I was entitled to share. If he thought me unworthy, unfit to weep with him, I should feel it as the most poignant humiliation, as the most terrible mode for which disgrace could be inflicted on me . . . he who can look on the loveliness of the world and share its sorrow, and realize something of the wonder of both, is in immediate contact with divine things, and has got as near to God's secret as any one can get.—Oscar Wilde.



ST. PAUL PROVIDES PUBLIC WORKS IN A \$1,500,000 ADDITION TO THE MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

# Brotherhood Backs Public Works Bill

**S**ECRETARY BUGNIAZET has taken active personal interest in legislative matters. His letter to Senator La Follette backing the public works bill, has been widely quoted.

He said:

"May I, in behalf of myself and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, express my gratitude for the able bill you have drawn in the public works measure for the relief of unemployment? May I, too, express appreciation for the aggressive way you have forwarded the progress of this bill?

"Public works as an alleviator of unemployment has passed beyond the stage of theory. Our local unions in every section of the nation report substantial results when public buildings are started and pushed. Some local unions have been saved from demoralization by such jobs.

"Need in 1932 for a public building program of increasing proportions will be great. Decline in construction was progressive in 1931. It is one of the disquieting facts about the present depression. Based on a census of work in architects' and engineers' offices, the marked decline apparent in November and December, 1931, will continue well into 1932. Great cities will have less construction in 1932 than in 1931. The crisis created is great, and, we hope, does not have to be minutely dissected to be appreciated by members of this Congress.

"About \$500,000,000 of construction employs directly about 100,000 building trades workers. But it employs about 200,000 workers in related lines. Several billion dollars appropriated by Congress will not only substantially relieve unemployment in the great, basic construction industry, but will stimulate the whole stagnant business system.

"We expect to give such aid as this organization can in forwarding the passage of your bill."

#### Opposes Wilkerson's Confirmation

Secretary Bugniazet also sent a personal communication to every Senator outlining the union's objections to the confirmation of Judge Wilkerson.

January 14, 1932.

Dear Mr. Senator:

"The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is unqualifiedly and unreservedly opposed to the confirmation of Federal Judge James J. Wilkerson to the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, second only to the highest tribunal of the land.

"Judge Wilkerson is the author of the railway shopmen's injunction of 1922, granted on a complaint

**Official sends widely-quoted letter to Senator La Follette discussing need for Federal construction. Also takes part in opposition to Judge Wilkerson.**

covering 37 pages, exclusive of 14 pages of prayers for relief, and 97 pages of exhibit—on petition so sweeping and unjustified that it is bracketed by Felix Frankfurter in his 'The Labor Injunction' as an unsupported, one-sided complaint in general terms, an incantation, and not a rational solicitation for judgment.'

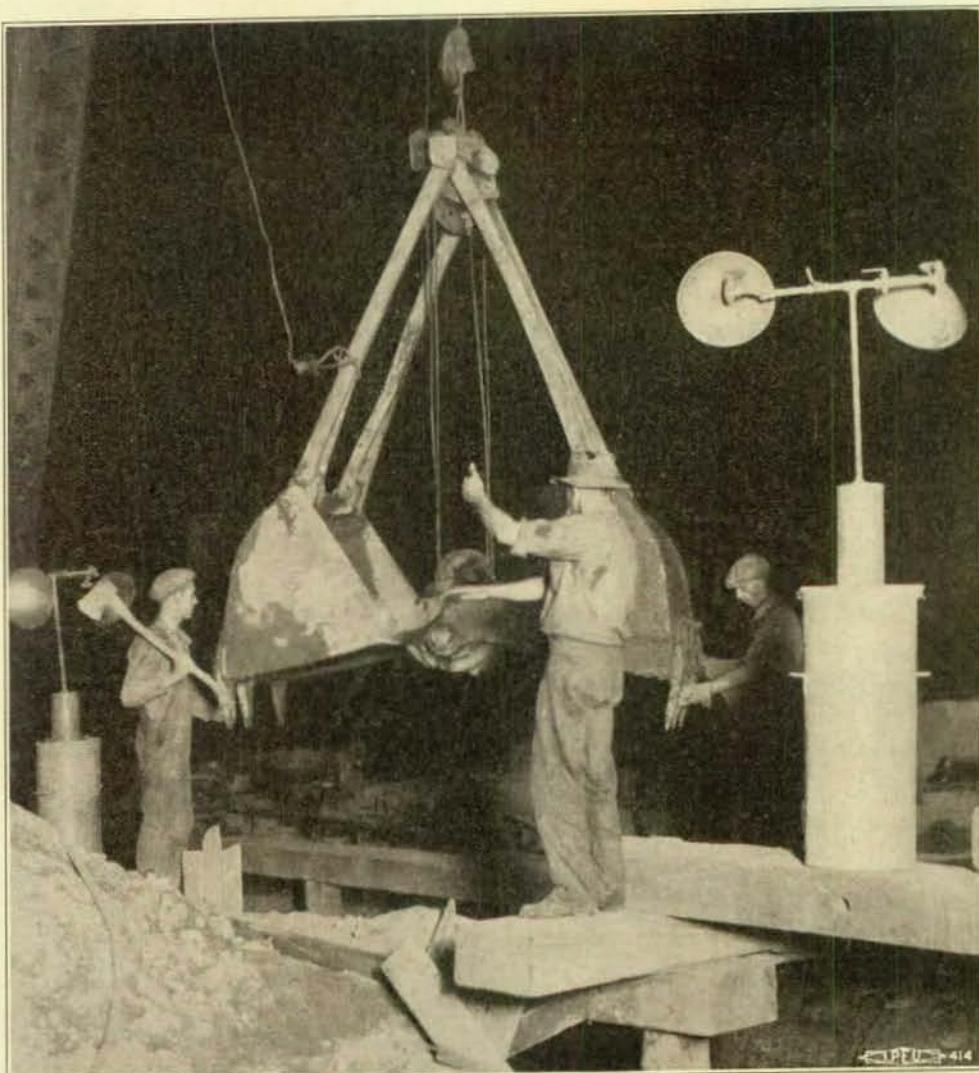
"Electrical workers know well the workings of Judge Wilkerson's professional mind. In 1924 he granted a restraining order against the Chicago electrical local union which was in violation of the 13th Amendment of the Constitution. Judge Wilkerson erroneously based his decision on the fiction that the

Western Union Telegraph Company, the petitioner, was a public utility, when in fact it has never been subject to any governmental regulation. Judge Wilkerson also took the curious position that refusing to work with non-union employees of the Western Union Telegraph Company on local building structures was an interference with interstate commerce. Judge Wilkerson also rendered a grave opinion. By sophistry and legal word-twisting, he attacked the fundamental right of citizens to work.

"We understand that Judge Wilkerson's nomination is accompanied by a well-devised publicity campaign—the center of which is the myth that Judge Wilkerson has broken gangster rule in Chicago. We beg of you to pierce behind this press agent's fantasy and to understand that the situation remains the same in Chicago as prior to Judge Wilkerson's widely advertised attack on beer racketeers.

"We hope the U. S. Senate's judiciary committee will not be misled by this sophistry, or by that other, namely that

(Continued on page 102)



BUILDERS

# Group Sick Insurance as High Cost Cure

MICHAEL M. Davis, director of the medical service division of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, has recently undertaken a comprehensive study of the present-day problems arising from sudden and all too frequently devastating illness. In his book, "Paying Your Sickness Bills," he handles this subject adequately, presenting sympathetically and impartially the problem as viewed by those in need of medical service and by those providing it. He summarizes the trying situation briefly and offers a few timely suggestions of his own as to how it may be remedied.

The chief source of difficulty lies in the fact that severe illness usually slips up on its victims unexpectedly. It is equally impossible to forecast the time and duration of the attack or the expense which must be borne in order to care properly for it. There is nothing partial about the menacing spectre, sickness; it strikes rich and poor alike, with utter disregard for the family purse.

Unlike food, clothing and rent, the high variability of its cost and the uncertainty of its occurrence make it a non-budgetable emergency. Statistics show that heavy, high-cost sickness bills fall to the lot of from 15 to 20 per cent of all families each year, but whether one's own family is to be among this group of unfortunates or not is a secret seldom divulged ahead of time. Over one-half of the total annual sickness bill falls upon less than one-fifth of the whole population. An operation may cost \$10 or \$1,000, and the patient's ability to pay for it depends not only upon the amount of the doctor's and the hospital's fees but also upon his income as related to his resources and to his family responsibilities. Many otherwise self-respecting and self-supporting families must resort each year to accepting medical services as partial or complete charity, because the need for such services is necessarily a sudden and unforeseen contingency.

## Two Sides of Question

Doctors also have their troubles. In addition to the high cost of educational preparation and tiding over in the difficult period of building up their practice, once established they must continuously meet the high overhead costs of maintain-

**Physician frankly faces problem of prohibitive medical costs, and suggests sane remedy. Believes yearly premiums would be much less than present yearly bills.**

ing their offices, facilitating equipment and assistance. Unless a general practitioner is fortunate enough to be appointed to the staff of a hospital or clinic, he must frequently turn his best prospective patients over to a specialist, a surgeon or another physician who has hospital privileges and thereby lose his own chance for remuneration.

Moreover, many patients either do not or cannot pay their bills, partly because it is customary to pay off hospital charges first, before paying the other

expenses incurred. The present sliding-scale system of fees for medical service, whereby a physician charges for his attention and care according to what he thinks his patient can pay, works to the advantage of a few—those who are lucky enough to administer to the wealthy and the well-to-do as well as to the poor. But for the most part, the general practitioner finds that the scale slides only in one direction—downward, to accommodate those who are unable to meet the usual charge.

Physicians who become members of hospital or clinic staffs generally fare slightly better than those who do not. They have the privilege of caring for private, paying patients at the hospital, rather than at their offices or in the patient's home. They are entitled to free use of the hospital's plant and equipment and to its nursing and technical personnel. They receive a certain social prestige and secure opportunities for valuable professional contacts which they might not otherwise have. In return for these privileges they perform a large percentage of work at the hospital for little or no fees upon charity and ward patients.

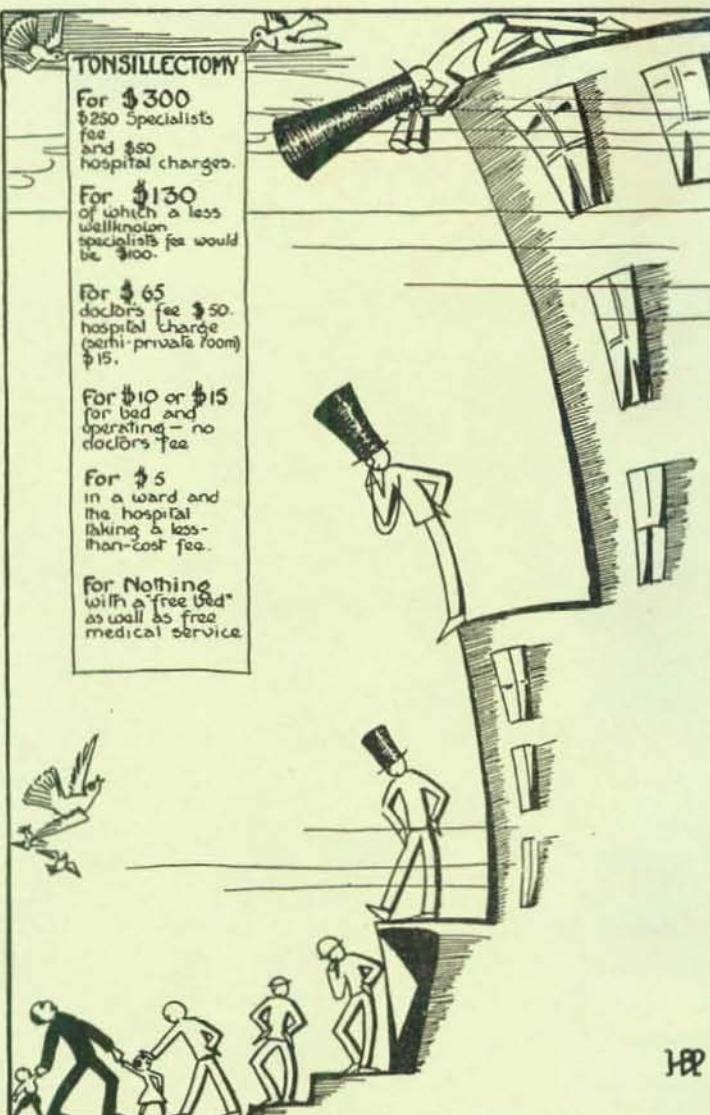
Hospitals are considered public institutions for administering to the needs of the members of the community. The relationship between the hospitals and their staff physicians should be an entirely reciprocal one. The physicians serve the poor patients in the community for little or nothing. In return they have the use of the hospital facilities for their own paying clients.

## Socking the Poor Patient

There is, under the present system, much waste of time, money and peace of mind on the part of the patient, as an outgrowth of the spreading movement toward diversification and specialization in the medical profession. The patient is viewed as a collection of physical organs rather than as a united organism. He is shipped about from physician to diagnostician, specialist and surgeon and socked with an individual fee from one or more, with doubtless a hospital bill to boot. The uncertainty as to what ultimate total will be is a highly disturbing factor.

Mr. Davis suggests that one way to remedy this

(Continued on page 105)



Courtesy Survey Graphic

Medical Costs Have Been Agitating Thoughtful Persons For a Long Time. The Survey Graphic Has Contributed Much to the Understanding of the Problem. The Drawing Has Been Called the Medical Staircase. Reproduced in "Paying Your Sickness Bills."

# High Wages Don't Mean High Living Costs

**A**MERICAN wage scales are much above those in most European cities. But prices of goods in America are not greatly above prices in the same European cities. Labor costs are no longer principal factors in price figures. Skill, management, machine production, labor responsibility and efficiency—all enter in.

The foregoing appears to be the significance of the so-called Ford Comparative Wage Figures made by the International Labor Office in conjunction with the U. S. Department of Labor. A thorough investigation was made in Detroit and in 14 European cities. The result is astounding.

So unflattering to European industry is the report, European employers have used their influence to stop its spread by the I. L. O.

The ELECTRICAL WORKERS JOURNAL is indebted to Leifur Magnusson, Director, Washington office, International Labor Organization, for the following analysis:

## Cost of Living in Europe

By LEIFUR MAGNUSSON

Americans have been accustomed, if not actually taught, to believe that the cost of living in Europe is much lower than in the United States. It will, therefore, surprise them to find in some cities in Europe that it costs more and

Famed comparative wage study based on Ford scale bares new evidence of soundness of labor's wage doctrine. European employers restive under comparison. Demand distribution of figures cease.

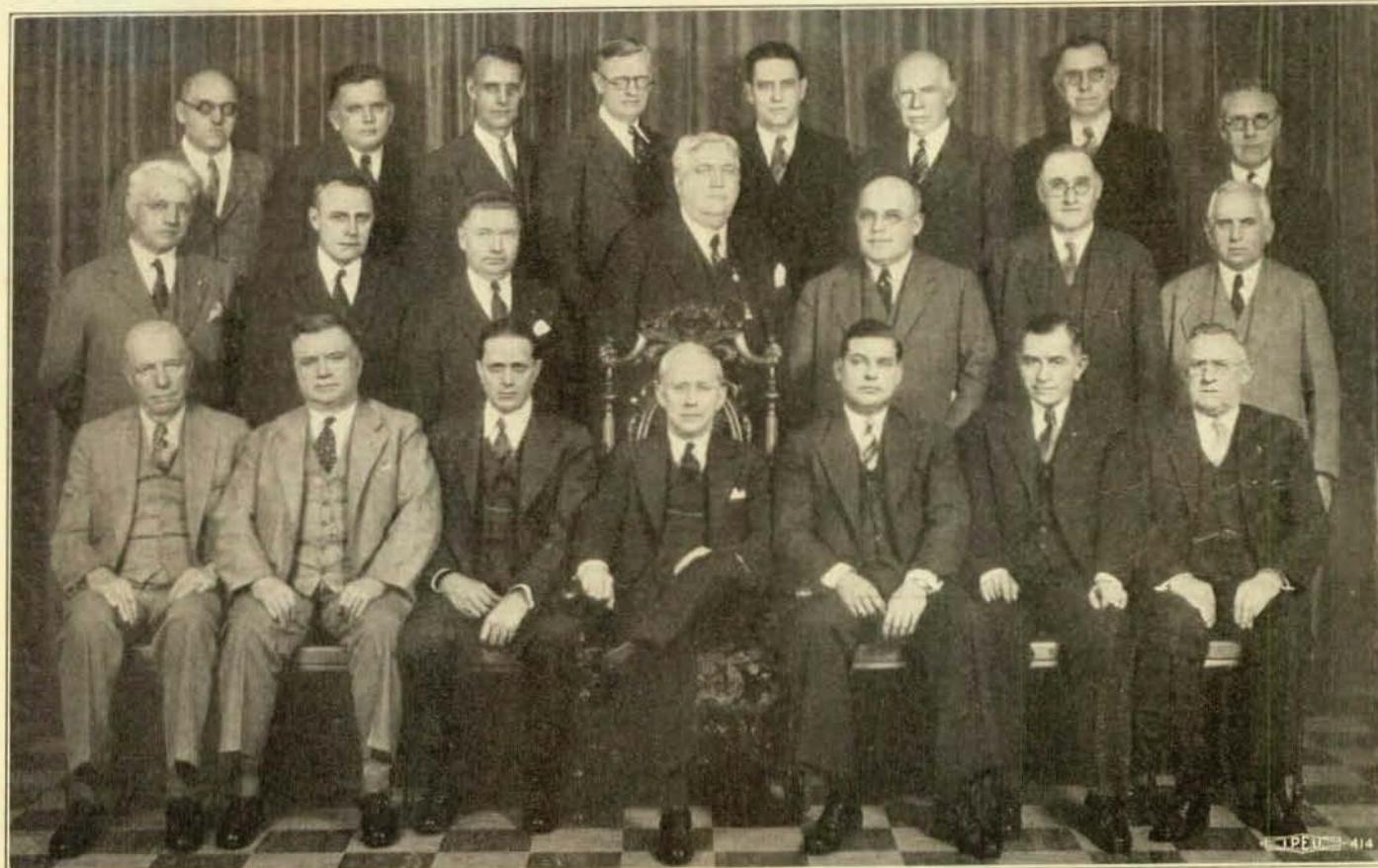
in many almost as much as in the United States. Two years of study by the International Labor Office show a surprisingly close equivalence in living costs in Europe and the United States, and only toward the south of Europe does one find those accepted differences in the costs of similar standards.

Laying aside many difficult problems of method, which even hardy statisticians are afraid to tackle, the results of the study by the International Labor Office can be briefly stated: An expenditure of \$10 for material comforts in Detroit, such as food, fuel, housing, clothing, health, amusements, etc., would cost \$9.90 to \$10.40 in Stockholm, \$8.30 to \$9.00 in Berlin; \$8.50 to \$9.30 in Frankfort; \$8.30 to \$9.10 in Copenhagen; \$8.00 to \$8.30 in Paris; and other cities down as low as \$5.80 in Barcelona.

Putting this in terms of wages, a worker in Europe to be as well off as a Ford worker in Detroit, who gets \$1,550 a year—provided he can put in as much as 250 days of full work in the year—will have to have annual earnings of \$1,534.50 if he lived in Stockholm, and \$1,085 in Manchester, England. What the necessary earnings would have to be in the other cities are shown in the first column below, and what workers most probably receive is shown in the second column.

Cities	Cost of living (expenditure basis)	Estimated Actual Earnings in Machine Shops, Dollars	Per Cent Increase Needed to Equal Purchasing Power Detroit Earnings
Detroit	1,550	1,550	—
Stockholm	1,534	1,044	47
Cork	1,317	998	32
Frankfort	1,317	—	—
Berlin	1,286	807	59
Helsingfors	1,286	577	122
Copenhagen	1,286	1,125	14
Paris	1,240	832	49
Marseilles	1,162	676	72
Manchester	1,085	996	09
Warsaw	1,038	644	61
Rotterdam	1,007	856	18
Istanbul	1,007	—	—
Antwerp	945	769	23
Barcelona	899	711	26

One of the most important consequences of this report by the Interna-  
(Continued on page 112)



THESE HEADS OF RAIL UNIONS MADE HISTORY AT THE CHICAGO CONFERENCE. FOR THE FIRST TIME ORGANIZED WORKERS WERE RECOGNIZED ON A NATIONAL SCALE. A 10 PER CENT WAGE "DEDUCTION" BROUGHT CONCESSIONS FROM MANAGEMENT.

Palmer House Studio

# Industry Scanned by Critic From Within

If you don't remember, we will tell you that Thales was the first recorded man to recognize the force of electricity in the world. That was about 600 B. C.

"A Message from Thales," the solid, frank, constructive booklet now going the rounds of key men in the electrical industry, is no doubt written by "one who knows," an old-timer, and an insider in the industry. It reveals detailed, technical knowledge of manufacturing, generation and contracting.

The author, no doubt, chose the nom de plume "Thales" in order to suggest a return to first principles. His is no personal criticism, but an honest, timely, shrewd commentary upon the business of manufacturing, generating and installing. The booklet is said to be getting a considerate hearing.

Thales begins his discussion by dating the first and only all-industry conference as 1927. That was a failure in so far as going forward is concerned, but it revealed some creaking joints in the industrial machine. It revealed that the electrical contractor is of key importance, but that charges that he was retarding the industry were not true. Progress in the industry rests upon six groups: central station men, contractors, jobbers, manufacturers, wholesalers and labor. "The contractor can perform satisfactorily only when the other five groups in the industry are functioning efficiently."

#### Neglected Field Shown

Thales finds that the contractors' market is made up of the industrial, commercial and residential. The first two have been well developed with the aid of the utilities, but the latter is badly neglected.

"The fundamental fact that residential current consumption is dynamic and not static has been so completely ignored by the industry, especially utilities, that today out of the more than 21,000,000 wired homes in the United States, less than 1½ per cent are wired adequately for the present purposes. Rewiring and additional wiring to bring these 21 million homes up to a modern standard presents a potential sales volume that staggers the imagination.

"It has been estimated that here is a two billion dollar market staring the contractors and the industry right in the face, and the industry as a whole stares right back. \* \* \*

"Millions of homes in the United States have no convenience outlets at all, some only one or two and a large part of the public is therefore unable or at least very much restricted in the convenient and free use of small and major appliances. For instance, a survey made in a residential district of a large city in the middle west disclosed the fact that there was only one convenience outlet for every four homes."

Squarely upon the shoulders of all groups, Thales places responsibility for

Entire electric industry agitated by "Message from Thales" which frankly discusses problems of the industry. Electrical contractor viewed as of key importance.



Gentlemen, gaze upon Rodin's statue. It represents brute clay awakening to thought. A thinker has arrived in the electrical industry. Now a thinker is always unwelcome to lazy people, but when self-preservation is concerned, perhaps thought will be preferred to extinction. So Thales suggests.

the shortcomings of the industry. The bad system of distribution is due to failure to grasp the fact that sales are made by changing mass habits of thought. Too much advertising and effort are expended by competitors in taking away business from each other.

"The industry as a whole is not market-conscious or creative sales-minded. It is indeed a pitiable sight to see this dog-fight-dog spirit in all its branches, all fighting for the same bone, instead of looking for and finding the place where all bones come from. Jumping and growling at that poor devil, the half-starved and anemic contractor, has indeed been the indoor sport of the industry in many instances. The contractor may be the industry's goat, but remember he is only

a he-goat and does not give any milk or nourishment himself."

Utilities which sell electricity have tried to create demand for better wiring by educating the architect and speculative builder. To Thales, this is all waste motion, and verges on the foolish and futile. "Why not address our sales talk to the public, the real consumer? Why not make the public dissatisfied with inadequate wiring? Is it perhaps, that the easiest way out of it, is to pass the buck to the contractor and let it go at that?"

After all, the consumer is not buying meters, appliances or wiring, but electricity. In this sense, there is a common bond between all branches of the industry. Each has a common source of income.

The contractor should be as much interested in building load as the utility. "The basic objectives, therefore of any and all persons connected with or supported by the electrical industry, from utility magnate to electrician's helper, should be directly or indirectly, the promotion of public kilowatt hour consumption."

#### Rates Hold Back Progress

Quite without entering into the tone of controversy, Thales touches upon the vexed question of utility rates as it bears upon the consumer, and the market for the contractor and the manufacturer.

"The first factor of sales-resistance, that is price, is therefore, a very important one in the sale of kilowatt hours, and the rate structure of the utilities is of vital importance to all in the industry. Favorable and sound economic rate structures, however, can only be built upon efficient operation, from financing to reading the meters, and this in turn depends upon adequate consumption. \* \* \*

"Some utilities, no doubt, are acting unwisely in trying to make something sacred, divine, secret and mysterious out of such a common economic fact as a rate-structure.

"The economic difficulties and problems confronting the utilities in rendering efficient public services are of vital interest and concern to all the branches of the industry; their fight in this matter is the fight of everyone connected with the electrical business. If the utilities would confide more freely in the entire industry, nationally and locally, it is reasonable to suppose that the other branches would better understand them and their objectives, and would be in a better position to co-operate constructively and intelligently.

"For instance building up a five or 10 K. W. hour per month customer, who is now being served at a loss of perhaps several dollars per month, to one paying his own freight, is a problem that concerns everyone in the industry. I feel confident that local utilities would receive the fullest support and co-operation from the better class of contractors and every one in the industry if they would

(Continued on page 107)

# Boulder Dam "Whitewash" Ignores Criticism

THE "committee of experts," appointed by the Associated General Contractors and the American Engineering Council, has spoken. In a 77-page, mock-leather-bound booklet, the "experts," sent to visit Boulder Dam, came back with such jewels of rhetoric as:

"There are many ways in which civilized man has expressed his divine endowments. \* \* \*

"Mankind has builded before in the desert and he has made war against one of Nature's greatest powers—the force of moving waters. \* \* \*

"But this project is more than a struggle against embattled materials. \* \* \*

"Throughout the whole enterprise here was a purpose and a meaning." \* \* \*

The foregoing are typical of the grandiose, high-sounding publicity attached to this report of "experts." No specific evils are cited. And the specific charges brought against the management of the project are never met. The charges stand as gathered by trained observers during the early months of the construction. The high-sounding rhetoric, the expensive, mock-leather-bound report, the photographs, and the bologna, cannot make citizens forget the real facts.

Here they are:

**The Transformer**, published by L. U. No. 18, I. B. E. W., May 20, 1931.

"Eleven men were injured, two possibly fatally, when a terrible blast of dynamite was set off without warning.

\* \* \* The blast sent tons of rock down on men working several hundred yards below. \* \* \* Feeling ran high at the camp of the Six Companies, Inc., when members of the injured crew charged that the crew responsible for the blast was composed chiefly of foreigners."

**J. H. Cochran**, *The Electrical Workers Journal*, September, 1931.

"The highest mortality for one day in the way of accidents came from the explosion of a delayed round of shots in the cavity. The first round went off. After waiting a while the men were ordered in and got the full benefit of the blast. [Result, 11 deaths.]

"Other accidents occurred when the men were lowered for drilling holes with their jacks. Lowered into position in some

**Expensive report of general contractors and engineers fails to touch specifically the grave charges made against Six Companies, Inc.**

cases the rope broke or in others it was surmised the men were overcome by the heat. You can take your choice."

**Edmund Wilson**, *The New Republic*, September 2, 1931.

"There is no question that the Six Companies have actually violated the safety laws of the state of Nevada under the pretext that they do not apply on a government reservation. They have, for example, been sending men back into the tunnels 15 or 20 minutes after the blast when the customary time allowed to let the nitro-glycerine fumes evaporate is about an hour. The laws require ventilation in tunnels, safety men at the headings and change rooms where it is possible for the men to dry themselves before going out into the air, and none of these the company have supplied."

**C. F. Grow**, official representative of the International Association of Machinists, *The Iowa Unionist and Public Forum*, July 31, 1931.

"Trucks are used to take the workers from Boulder City to the dam site, which is about nine miles distant; the men in many instances stand up closely

packed together, while riding and being jolted, under the burning sun. A number of these trucks have turned over while going over the rough roads; it is only the strongest men that can keep up this pace, and not for long."

**Victor Castle**, *The Nation*, August 26, 1931.

"The 'room' [assigned to him as a part of his pay] consists of a cot with filthy blankets placed in a tent with three other cots. The tent is utterly unprotected by any shade, mercilessly exposed to the sun and without any double roof. I tried to sleep. \* \* \* but it was simply impossible—the tent was unbearable."

**Edmund Wilson**, referred to above.

"The buildings [which eventually replaced the tents] are crude dormitories like army barracks, where the men sleep close together and where the disinfectant used in the water closets pervades the atmosphere.

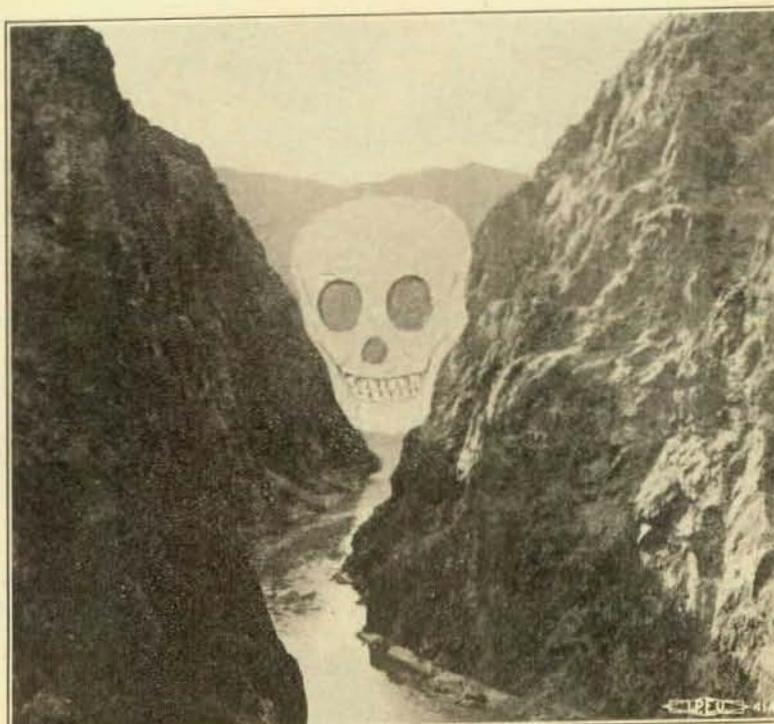
"The water of the Colorado River, full of silt from the decomposing tufa, is an opaque yellow like coffee with too much cream. The men had to drink and wash in this water, which was nearly always tepid and which sometimes got so hot in the tanks that it was impossible to shave with it. The effect was sickening. \* \* \*

"The camp was infected with some kind of wild mice which jump up onto the beds with incredible agility and crawl all over the men; they got so that they brushed them away in their sleep like flies. For the shift that had to get its rest during the daytime with the sun glaring in through the windows and heating the shack like an oven, sleep was at best a heavy, sweating stupefaction. When they got up they would find their drills so hot that they couldn't handle them until they had cooled them."

**Victor Castle**, already mentioned.

"This ['Rag City,' a camp village near Boulder Dam] is the refuge of men with families who have come seeking employment. There is not a green thing in sight. Here are probably some three or four hundred families living in tents rigged up out of every known kind of wood, rag, and tin from cans. \* \* \* Las Vegas water is sold [here] at 15 cents for two gallons or five gallons for a quarter. Local enterprise has dug a hole

(Continued on page 109)



Death Outstares Superficial Investigators at Boulder Dam.

# Economics of Robinson Crusoe—New Style

By SAMUEL DANZIGER

"FRIDAY," said Robinson Crusoe,  
"I'm sorry, I fear I must lay  
you off."

"What do you mean, master?"

"Why, you know there's a big surplus  
of last year's crop. I don't need you to  
plan another this year. I've got enough  
goat-skin clothes to last me a lifetime.  
My house needs no repairs. I can gather  
turtle eggs myself. There's an over-  
production. When I need you I'll send  
for you. You needn't wait around  
here."

"That's all right, master. I'll plant  
my own crop, build my own hut and  
gather all the eggs and nuts I want my-  
self. I'll get along fine."

"Where will you do all this, Friday?"

"Here, on this island."

"This island belongs to me, you know.  
I can't allow you to do that when you  
can't pay me anything I need. I might  
as well not own it."

"Then I'll build a canoe and fish in  
the ocean. You don't own that."

"That's all right, provided you don't  
use any of my trees for your canoe, or  
build it on my land, or use my beach  
for a landing place, and do your fishing  
far enough away so as not to interfere  
with my riparian rights."

"I never thought of that, master. I  
can do without a boat though. I'll swim  
over to that rock and fish there and  
gather sea gull eggs."

"No you won't, Friday. The rock is  
mine. I own riparian rights."

"What shall I do, master?"

"That's your problem, Friday. You  
are a free man and you know about the  
rugged individualism maintained here."

"I guess I'll starve, master. May I  
stay here until I do or shall I swim be-  
yond your riparian rights and drown or  
starve there?"

"I've thought of something, Friday. I  
don't like to carry my garbage down to  
the shore each day. You may stay and  
do that. Then whatever is left of it  
after my dog and cat have been fed you  
may eat. You're in luck."

"Thank you, master. That is true  
charity."

"One thing more, Friday. This island  
is over-populated. Fifty per cent of the  
people are unemployed. We are under-  
going a severe depression and there is  
no way that I can see to end it. No one  
but a charlatan would say that he could.  
So keep a lookout and let no one land  
here to settle, and if any ship comes  
don't let them land any goods of any  
kind. You must be protected against  
foreign labor. Conditions are funda-  
mentally sound, though, and prosperity  
is just around the corner."

(This brilliant economic satire was  
first published in "The Organizer," Van-  
couver, B. C. It was forwarded to this  
JOURNAL by our ever-alert correspon-  
dent, F. Shapland.)



Man Friday Is Fired. Employment Falls off 50 Per Cent. Depression Is on.

## UNEMPLOYMENT DISSECTED BY ECONOMIST AND CONTRIBUTOR TO THIS JOURNAL

Education can be a dead and deadening process, or it can be a vital aid to every-day living and working. The education supplied by the Affiliated Summer Schools for Women Workers in Industry belongs to the latter category. They have come to grips with the problems that women workers face on the job. They have manifested a fluid, liberal policy toward problems in industry and a sympathetic understanding for the workers who must bear the burdens of daily toil.

One of the manifestations of proximity to work problems is the recent outline study on Unemployment\* just issued by this group.

Readers of the ELECTRICAL WORKERS JOURNAL will have, we assume, more than a usual interest in this outline study inasmuch as its author is William Haber, a regular contributor to our columns. Dr. Haber is a young economist who has written a book on industrial relations in the building industry which

is distinguished by its fairness and wide information. He understands what kind of contribution a union makes to any industry, and he has prepared this outline on unemployment with a full appreciation of workers' problems. The one fault we find with the syllabus is there is too little reference made to labor publications themselves. Each chapter is supplied with a list of books for reading, and practically none of these references are what might be called from labor sources. We may suppose that Dr. Haber is affected in this one regard by too great obeisance to academic standards.

However, the outline goes deep and should guide any student right in his approach to this most important problem of our generation.

(Unemployment: a Problem of Insecurity—by William Haber. Affiliated Summer Schools for Women Workers, 218 Madison Avenue, New York City. Price, 35 cents to workers from this address.)

# Base-Plan of Work Plan Widely Accepted

IT has been reported in Washington that the United States Department of Commerce, in association with the United States Chamber of Commerce, has set up a joint board to prosecute plans looking toward modernization and repair work in the building industry. The scheme is said to be similar to the one announced last September by the Electrical Guild of North America in association with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, called the Co-operative Work Plan. The idea is to multiply small repair jobs in such number that the total volume of business will be a real relief to the unemployed in the building field.

Electrical workers have not lagged in their campaign in 300 and more cities in the United States and Canada. Some local unions have been tardy in getting their work plan launched, which was to be expected inasmuch as it calls for a new type of function and organization. The International Office is receiving letters every day in regard to the work plan and its functioning. Most locals are believers in the general objective of entering the residential field via this route.

A number of cities have already anticipated the new joint committee set up by the Department of Commerce and the Chamber of Commerce. Rochester, N. Y., and Muncie, Ind., have worked out elaborate variations of this plan with good results. The locals in these two cities report they have received a good deal of work in co-operation with the community committee set up by the Chamber of Commerce. The Rochester plan has been a comprehensive one. A kind of city-wide buying campaign has been inaugurated in the evangelical spirit. Citizens have been pledged en masse to spend a total of \$5,000,000 in repair work which they had not previously intended to spend. A good deal of advertising has gone forward in the state of New York to adopt the Rochester plan generally throughout the state.

#### Florida Arrives

Jacksonville and Tampa, Fla., have made progress in launching the Co-operative Work Plan, our correspondents report.

In Springfield, Mass., the local union has started a class in salesmanship. This seems to be an intelligent approach to the general objective.

The reports that filter in usually pay tribute to the co-operation of the utility in the cities where that co-operation is forthcoming. The support given the extended campaign in Detroit by the Detroit Edison Company has been most notable. From Omaha comes this report, "the best results affecting the electrical worker was due to the intensive advertising and selling campaign by the Nebraska Power & Light Company on water heaters, ranges, and electric refrigerators."

**Enthusiasm for Co-operative Work Plan does not flag. Local unions move out upon general scheme laid down by International Office. Reports from many cities.**

Canada is becoming more interested in the Work Plan. International Representative Broderick has sent for 50 copies of the Co-operative Work Plan handbook. Ottawa reports that a good foundation is being laid for the future prosecution of this type of work.

#### Big Cities Begin

Vallejo, Calif., reports through Clifton Hering that preliminary conferences have been held with the contractors' association and full co-operation has been promised by the contractors. Boston and St. Louis are the principal cities of the first rank who are now prosecuting the Work Plan. Unfortunately in Boston, the utilities refused to co-operate. The Boston section of the Electrical Guild of North America, however, made generous arrangements with the union, and the scheme is going forward. St. Louis has had conferences with the contractors and have set up arrangements whereby the house owner will get a preferred rate on this particular type of construction.

Lockport, N. Y., appears to have attacked the problem of unemployment with a good deal of vigor. Here the local union is co-operating with the

board of commerce and the mayor's unemployment committee. A city-wide canvass was made of merchants, manufacturers and house owners to persuade them to institute remodeling and repair work at this time. The city set up a loan association with a capital of \$200,000. This acts as a central pool from which contractors can finance repair jobs. Registration headquarters is maintained at the board of commerce where no discrimination against union craftsmen is made.

Birmingham, Ala., is another large city which has hit the line hard with the Co-operative Work Plan. There the co-operation between the contractors and the union has been excellent. Twenty unemployed journeymen were set out in pre-arranged zones with handbills. About 15,000 were distributed throughout the city. On the following day, each of these men returned to his zone to follow up the advertising with a talk to house owners. These salesmen carried an identification card. The handbills stated among other things that "hundreds of electricians will be unemployed this winter. \* \* \* It is your patriotic duty—your civic obligation—your debt to humanity—to do your bit, and do it now." The advertising also promised that the contractors and electricians would do work—large or small jobs—at the very lowest cost.

#### Cheap Wiring Expensive

El Paso, Texas, has swung into the Work Plan column. One interesting angle on their campaign is that the

(Continued on page 106)



Courtesy Los Angeles Bureau of Power and Light.

Electricity Has Great Decorative Value. Its Use Is Being Recognized in Exterior as Well as Interior Decoration.

# California Turns to All-Electric Houses

CALIFORNIA, the state which, through its great cinema industry, has set fashions for the world, the state which gave an enduring architectural type, the bungalow, to America, now takes the lead in presenting the all-electric apartment house. Every known decorative and utilitarian use to which electricity can be put has been incorporated in many striking apartment buildings. The vogue is spreading.

The publicly-owned Los Angeles Bureau of Power and Light has carried on a clever educational campaign among apartment house builders. The bureau has appealed to intelligent self-interest by showing that electricity attracts tenants and renters, and holds them. The modern man and woman are keenly susceptible to the beauty, and efficiency of electricity.

One of the strong appeals made—and the newest and most interesting—is the aesthetic. The bureau tells the prospective builder:

"A modern electric lighting system is as essential in modern construction as steel girders, standard plumbing and a water supply."

When a tenant goes into the Asbury, the Chateau des Fleurs, the El Vigo, La Leyenda or Stuyvesant he is entertained by the striking interiors, and the almost staggering array of conveniences. If it be night a soft, inviting radiance suffuses the white walls of his apartment home. Inside, no glare, but mellow brilliance which invites to thought and repose. The apartments are equipped with gliding electric elevators, some of them self-operated. Pure air, free from odors, is swept into the buildings by powerful electric blowers; kitchens are similarly equipped. Built-in refrigerators, snowy white; in every room handsome electric heaters, as integral parts of the furnishings, give distinctive notes. The electric range in the kitchen is a part of its furnishings, with no more obtrusive presence than the built-in cupboards. Built-in electric heaters, beautifully framed, give the bath a new decoration. No more chill in the mornings. The building is an ensemble of beauty and ease. Life appears to have reached a new plane of civilized leisure.

Electrical workers are interested in the rapid advance of this type of home from several angles. In the first place, it means a new field of work. Secondly, it means an opportunity for a higher standard of living for them and their families.

Electrical workers who have followed the progress of the Work Plan will be interested to know that the erection of all-electric apartments has greatly stimulated the modernization of old apartments. The electrical features are desirable because of a low industrial rate, which will be described in full later. This means wiring change-over.

The highest workmanship and best materials are advocated. The recom-

**Great impetus given to heating, cooling and every known device by Los Angeles Bureau of Power and Light. Rate a factor. Anticipates time when homes will run with languid but lightning ease.**

mendations of the California Electrical Bureau are the following, including the widely-advertised Red Seal standards:

The Red Seal wiring plan provides that there be at least one convenience outlet in every room and two or three in the larger rooms. The following specifications are included: Kitchen—outlets for range, utility motor, and iron; breakfast room—outlets for percolator, toaster, and waffle iron; dining room—

outlets for vacuum cleaner, floor lamps, radio, and electric clock; bed room—outlets for floor and table lamps, vacuum cleaner, and curling iron; bath room—outlets for hair dryer, curling iron, and portable electric heater (if there is not a built-in electric heater).

The low cost of this comfort and convenience is a drawing factor.

	Kw. hrs.
Lighting	74,858
Elev., Refrig., etc.	134,300
Heating and Cooking	510,425

	Ave. per Mo. per Occup. Apt.		
Yearly	Monthly	Average	
Lighting	\$1,968.61	\$166.55	\$2.95
Elev., Refrig., etc.	1,953.38	162.78	3.06
Heating and Cooking	5,053.44	421.12	6.47
Total—All Electric Energy	\$9,005.43	\$750.45	\$12.48

**Heating and Cooking**  
Average yearly cost per apartment:  
Singles ----- \$40.13  
(Continued on page 110)



Courtesy Los Angeles Bureau of Power and Light

Up These Steps to the Right, Thence Into Apartments Where Electrical Servants Solve Every Vexed Problem of Housekeeping.

# Dairy Plant Finds Union Maintenance Pays

By PAUL E. PATRICK, Chief Electrician, Bowman Dairy Plant, L. U. 134, Chicago

THE new milk pasteurizing and bottling plant of the Bowman Dairy Co. recently completed at River Forest, a suburb of Chicago, is recognized as one of the three or four finest

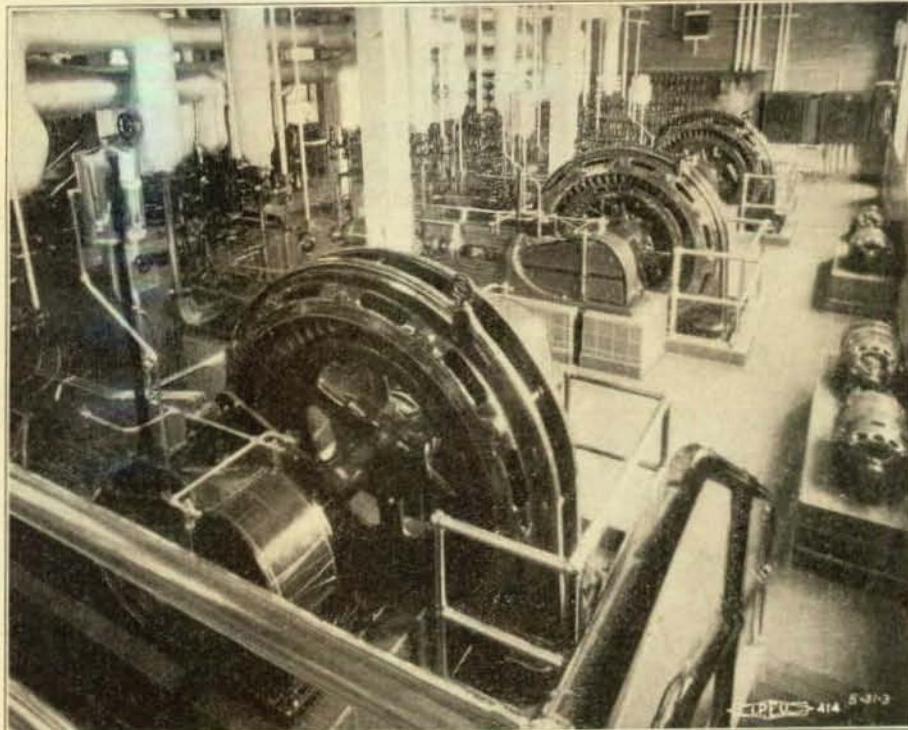
former room on the second floor of the power plant building at 4,000 volts from an underground service. The metering is all in this room and is on the secondary side. From the transformer room

extend three sets of three 700 MCM cables in 3-3½ inch conduits for the power and one set of 300 MCM cables in one 2½-inch conduit for the light. The main switchboard, built in Chicago by Major Equipment Co., is located on the first floor, along the south side of the compressor room. The board is built of ebony asbestos panels, and the bus bars are aluminum, this metal being used to avoid the corrosion caused by ammonia fumes on copper buses. The main line switch is a 1,500 amp. I. T. E. air circuit breaker, and all of the 16 feeder circuits to the various power panels are also controlled by I. T. E. breakers, 14 of them being 200 amp. and two 400 amp. We like circuit breakers much better than fuses for feeder circuits.

Back of the switchboard there is a concrete pit 3½ feet deep and the full length of the board. This pit is covered, the half next to the board with ebony asbestos panels drilled to match the lugs, and the half next to the wall by a removable wood grating. All of the feeder circuits except two run in underground conduits, the cable being single conductor 30 per cent rubber lead covered extending without splices to the panels. All of the conduits are pitched to drain.

#### Newest Type Motors

In this plant, as in all of our new work, we use mostly fully enclosed ball bearing motors, about 80 per cent of them being straight fully enclosed and the balance fan ventilated.



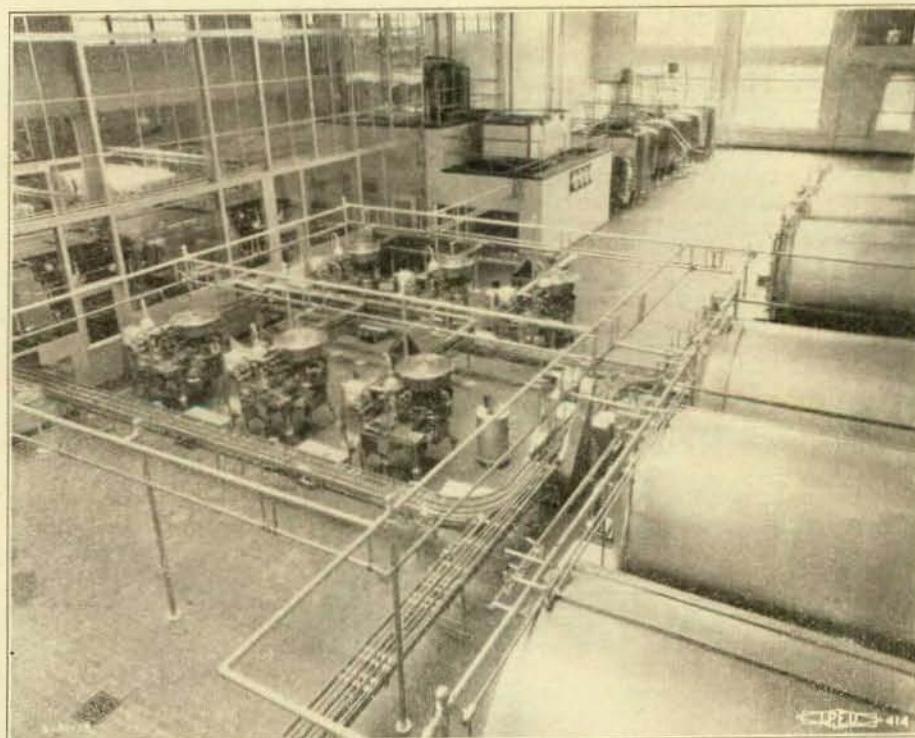
The Ammonia Compressor Room. Three Tandem Vilter Compressors Driven by Ideal 125 H. P. Synchronous Motors.

milk plants in the world. No expense was spared to make it the very last word in every detail of its design, appearance, sanitation, efficient operation, low cost of maintenance, and long life of equipment. The design of the electrical equipment, of course, came in for its share of careful consideration. The plant is not a large one as compared to plants of some other industries, but there are quite a number of things about the electrical installation that should be of interest to readers of this JOURNAL.

There are, all told, about 170 motors in the plant, aggregating about 940 h. p. Most of them are small—five h. p. and under. The only large motors are three 125 h. p., 138 r. p. m., ideal synchronous on the ammonia compressors and one 75 h. p., 1,200 r. p. m. on the well pump. All are 220 volts, three phase. Power is purchased from the Public Service Co. on straight "D" contract, and the rate being earned is about 1.6 cents per k. w. h.

The plant consists of three buildings: the power plant building, housing the machine shop, boiler room, ammonia compressor room, ice field and ice storage room; the main building containing all of the milk handling equipment, and a small building for the well house.

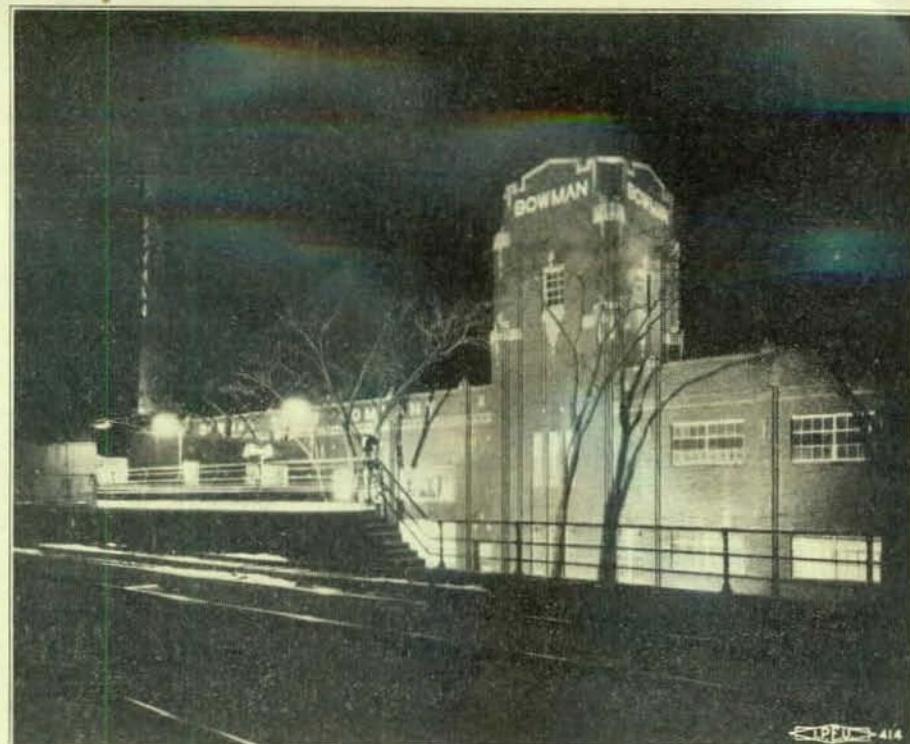
The service comes into the trans-



View of the Pasteurizing and Bottling Room. Walls of Entire Building Are White Glazed Brick and Floors Are Red Tile. Machines in the Foreground Are Bottle Fillers. Pasteurizing Equipment Is in the Background. Bottle Washers Are Back of the Glass Partition at the Left.

The most difficult item of maintenance in our plants is the one of motor starters, due to the excessive moisture. We have gotten around about 80 per cent of this trouble by designing a new type of power panel. This consists of the regular fuse panel with additional cabinet and panel space so that the motor starters can be mounted in the same cabinet. A photograph of one of these is shown. We use the Trumbull No. 81321 magnetic starter, on all motors up to and including 10 h. p. This starter has a self-re-setting overload relay, which is the best adapted to this kind of a panel. We have set most of these cabinets flush, extending all the way through the wall, with doors and conduit knockouts on each side. The wiring is then done from the rear. The advantages of this type of power panel are many, the principal one being that the starters are all mounted in a dry place, and free from mechanical injury. Also the mounting is simple and inexpensive, in this area no disconnect switch is required ahead of the magnetic switch.

We have no switch boxes hung on walls and machines to get rusty and require frequent painting, all of which adds greatly to the appearance of the plant. The push button wires are run along with the motor wires, and the button is placed at the most convenient place for the operator. Some of the buttons are mounted in gangs, from three to ten, where one operator controls several motors. The gang buttons all have bullseye indicating light to show that the motor is running. Thermal overload relays are used exclusively. We find that although a partial ground or a locked rotor will sometimes destroy the thermal element, it is very seldom



The Front of the Plant at Night. The Platform in the Foreground Is Where the Milk Tank Cars Are Unloaded. It Is Connected With the Plant by a Bridge Across the Street.

indeed that one will fail to operate when it should.

#### Automatic Check On Milk

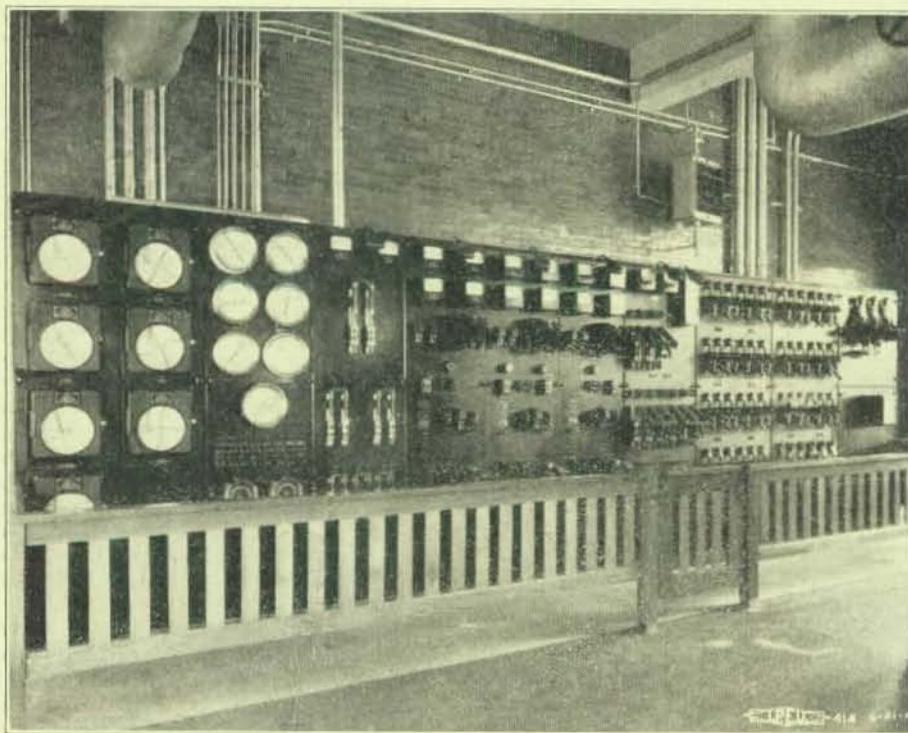
Another interesting control device we have developed is one which records the temperature of the milk coming from the pasteurizer, and also serves to prevent any milk from going on and being bottled unless it has been brought up to the proper temperature, which is

144°. This consists of a Leeds & Northrup resistance thermometer potentiometer recorder and controller, with the necessary relays and contactors. The instant that for any reason the temperature of the milk coming from the pasteurizer falls below 144°, even one fourth of one degree, the device stops the flow of milk, and it will only start again when the proper temperature has been restored. The temperature control system is of the air relay type made by the Taylor Instrument Co., and gives nearly perfect control, but this automatic stop device has been added to furnish an additional safeguard for our product.

#### Electric Pump In Deep Well

The water supply for a plant of this kind is quite an item as the daily requirements are about 260,000 gallons. In addition to the city water connection, we have our own well, which is 2,070 feet deep and has a capacity of 350 g. p. m. The pump is a Lane & Bowler turbine, and is set down in the well 400 feet. It is driven at 1,200 r. p. m. by a 75 h. p. Ideal vertical synchronous motor with direct connected exciter with full automatic control by a float switch in the overhead tank into which the pump discharges. The motor has reverse phase protection, and also protection against starting again for at least three minutes after it has stopped. The reason for this latter protection is that every time the pump stops, the water in the line runs back causing the pump and motor to spin backwards for about two minutes. It is obvious, of course, that the motor must not be started during this time. This result is accomplished by means of a G. E. MC-11 relay, which

(Continued on page 107)



VIEW OF THE MAIN SWITCHBOARD

The Esterline Meter on the Panel at the Right Records the Power Loads in K. W. The Recorders at the Left Are For Ammonia Pressures and Temperatures. The Water Tank Indicating Lights Were Added After This Photograph Was Taken.

# Eagle, Forgotten; Altgeld; Labor Champion

*By P. J. KING, International Association of Machinists, Boston*

WHEN Mrs. Mooney sent her telegram to Mayor Walker, of New York, its tragic contents had such appealing force as to cause its reprint in newspapers throughout the country. That heart broken cry: "I am eighty years old; afraid I'm breaking down at last. They want to take me to a hospital tomorrow. In the name of God and His blessed mother, won't you come out to help my boy? It is my last chance to put my arms around him before I meet my God. He has been a good son to me," again aroused men and women who had forgotten the Mooney case, and awakened a new generation that had never heard of it. The hope was wide spread that Mayor Walker would be successful in his appeal for the pardon of Tom Mooney. But that hope was blasted, for the time, in the reply of Governor Rolph, "There is no hurry about the matter."

No hurry?—despite the recantation or proof of perjury of all the chief witnesses, established alibis, the pleas for pardon of the judge who tried Mooney, all the living members of his jury, the then captain of detectives who was in charge of his case, and many other officials and other informed persons.

Broadly speaking, there are two reasons why there will be "no hurry." These are the sentiment of the majority of the citizens of the state and the political ambitions of its successive governors. More than half the present population of California consists of recent arrivals there, tired and retired people mostly from the middle west. Their concern with politics is light and superficial. This is particularly true of the residents of southern California.

In San Francisco, where the explosion occurred, only one newspaper is opposed to pardon. But out-of-town and especially country papers, in many cases owned and controlled by the most conservative elements of industry, are frequently savage in their demand that Mooney shall continue to be punished for a crime he did not commit. The editor of the "Colfax Record" delivered himself of the following explanation: "It is quite beside the point whether or not they are guilty of the particular crime of which they are charged and convicted. The question is: Are Mooney and Billings the sort of people we want to run at large?"

#### Labor Struggle Looms Behind

Between 1920 and 1930 numerous eastern industrialists started plants in California upon the assurance of civic and business leaders in the state that the open-shop status would be maintained in the future. The "big fellows" in organizations such as local chambers of commerce and merchants and manufacturers associations, whose economic

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**Little known pages of labor history centering in true hero, thumbed back by a labor unionist, who has made a life-time study of battling governor. His life has meaning for men today.**

---

and political power is enormous, are determined to maintain that status. Circulars sent to eastern industrialists stress the fact that in their community "labor is unorganized and cheap." And Mooney in prison is a living advertisement of the California boosters' determination to keep California open shop.

The study of the Mooney case and the timidity of California's successive governors, with political aspirations, recall the great John P. Altgeld, a far different type of governor, a man who faced a like situation and with courage declared for justice, though he knew it meant his political and financial ruin.

It was back in the early "nineties," when a schoolboy, that the name of Altgeld first came to my attention. Near the school house was an old time periodical store. There, daily, I would stand before the window and study the illustrated magazines and the covers of the latest novels.

It was at that window that I followed the thrilling adventures of Old Cap Collier, Nick Carter and Old King Brady and other famous characters so well known to the youth of those days. The Police Gazette, with its pink pages, informed me on the leading events in the world of crime and sport. In the center, copies of Puck and Judge would be

opened at the colored double paged cartoons, caricaturing the leading events and characters of the day.

It was from such pages that I became aware that the year 1893 was a time of wide sweeping depression and of such hardships as to be recalled even to this day. Those cartoons have since linked the name of Cleveland with pictures of a prophet leading the Democrats through cities of ruin.

#### Altgeld Called Serpent

Frequently there was shown the picture of a man who was always in the form of a serpent, or rat, undermining the structure of the state. Or when in human form, he would be likened to a pirate, or some other fiend, bent on destruction with bombs and flaming torch. To these harsh caricatures was attached the name of John P. Altgeld.

Even at that early age I wondered who that man could be and what he had done to incur such cruel and constant abuse. That thought has lingered with me for the past 40 years and has led to the study of one of the greatest and noblest men ever elected to office in the United States. A study of his early poverty and hardships and his striving for self-education amid conditions harsh and unfavorable more closely resemble the career of Lincoln than that of any other man in American public life.

Altgeld was born in Germany, in 1847. Three months after his birth his parents took him to this country in that great wave of immigration that carried so many Germans to the United States in the period from 1845 to 1854.

The whole of John Peter's boyhood and youth seems to have been overshadowed by clouds of family ill-fortunes. As soon as he was barely able to run about the farm he was impressed for service in the family struggle. At 13 he was guiding a plow in the fields. At 14 he was a full fledged farm hand. Of the carefree, adventurous, animal existence led by most young country boys, he knew virtually nothing. But during these early years of almost incessant physical labor, he snatched eagerly at every opportunity of an educational sort that came within his reach.

He managed to attend a district school for three winter terms; and that was the sum total of his early schooling, in the ordinary sense of the word. In later years he was chiefly self-educated by grace of a passion for reading. In the world of books the boy found virtually his only escape from a world of actuality that otherwise would have been scarcely tolerable.

He grew up under the hardest conditions of pioneering in northern Ohio; a grinding poverty that ever caused his heart to suffer with those who suffer and

(Continued on page 108)



GOVERNOR ALTGELD

# Chicago Has Union American Legion Post

THE American Legion is ever ready and willing to work hand in hand with every organization whose aim is better citizenship and higher ideals in our American life. It is not concerned whether men are laborers, farmers or bankers. It cares not what their race or creed may be. It only wants to know, whether they subscribe to those principles of good citizenship, and sane government, which every American should consider fundamental. Both the American Legion and organized labor believe in those principles, therefore, they are traveling the same road.

Early in the life of the American Legion, the American Federation of Labor, through the Grand Old Man and great American, Samuel Gompers, recognized the great potential worth of the American Legion when on November 2, 1921, he sent to F. W. Galbraith, Jr., then National Commander, the following declaration of principles on behalf of the American Federation of Labor:

"Organized labor contends for the improvement of the standard of life, to uproot ignorance and foster education, to instill character and manhood and an independent spirit among our people, to bring about a recognition of the interdependence of the modern life of man and his fellowman. It aims to establish a normal workday, take the children from the factory and the workshop and place them in the school, the home and the playground. In a word, the unions of labor, recognizing the duty of toil, strive to educate their members, to make their homes more cheerful in every way, to contribute an earnest effort toward making life the better worth living, to avail their members of their rights as citizens and to bear the duties and responsibilities and perform the obligations they owe to our country and our fellowmen. Labor and lawful means are not only commendable but should receive the sympathetic support of every right-thinking progressive man."

To which Mr. Galbraith replied in part:

"I know the truth of your words when you speak of the difficulty in attaining such an end. I appreciate the work you have done in keeping so large, so virile and so intent an organization as the American Federation of Labor so generally in accord with the professed principles of that great body. In the Legion, especially in the formulative period now passing, we have experienced like difficulties. One of your experience can appreciate the problem presented in providing a common ground for elements so diverse as those which constitute the American Legion. You can appreciate the difficulties attendant upon creating in a year and a half an organization structure capable of giving effect to such a purpose."

Since that time, 1921, there has existed an understanding and genuinely cordial relationship between the leaders

**Arranges for WCFL broadcast by Commander Paul Armstrong on "American Legion and Organized Labor."** The address cites parallel aims of Legion and labor.

of the two organizations. Both have made an effort to acquaint their members with the real aims and objects of the other. In fact, it has become the practice for the two organizations to exchange speakers every year at their national conventions.

At the Boston convention of the Legion, I had the honor of listening to the American who now heads the American Federation of Labor, Mr. William R. Green, who gave an inspiring address when he said in part, "We come here, you in your official capacity representing millions of Legionnaires, I refer to those who are identified with your great organization, and to those who ultimately will be and who are eligible. Then, sitting nearby is that other great organization which, for the moment, I have the honor to represent, representing there approximately five million working men and women; two powerful organizations representing a great cross section of American life, and American public opinion, co-operating together in furtherance of American ideals, noble, and lofty purposes of humanity; these two organizations engaged in a co-operative enterprise for performing teamwork, must be irresistible."

Mr. Green also said this, "I wish that I might refer to the heroic service of the Legionnaires and those they represent. Our great movement feels under great obligations to this wonderful

union. Many of our members are associated with you, and, so far as I can advise, those among our movement who are eligible to be members of the American Legion, I shall urge upon them with all the power I possess, that they do so."

The American Legion and organized labor understand one another. They know each other as two of the greatest forces in our national life today, two great service organizations, serving their country in peace as well as in war, many of whose ideals are the same, you believe in civic betterment, community welfare, adequate national defense, and a preservation of the ideals and principles won at Valley Forge and Yorktown, and kept sacred by the unselfish sacrifices of those men who won an empire from the wilderness, and who, when the necessity arose, joined the armed forces of the growing republic to repel the enemy, and to hold safe for their children the priceless heritage of liberty, life and the pursuit of happiness. This service to country has never been the prerogative of any class, but has been the privilege of men from every walk of life.

The American Legion is a great cross section of American life, and includes people from every industry, farmers, merchants, bankers, laboring and professional men. These men are united in their devotion to America. Their first consideration, however, is to their disabled comrades and to the widows and orphans of those who made the supreme sacrifice. Their success in this great work is proved by the veterans' hospitals, and the fine care our comrades receive in them; by the hundreds of laws and statutes passed by Congress and the various legislatures that are beneficial to veterans, all the result of organization, but it is not necessary to talk organization to union labor, you know its efficacy.

On February 22, 1929, at a great joint meeting of Legionnaires and union labor, John Walker, president of the Illinois Federation of Labor, John Fitzpatrick, of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and Patrick Sullivan, of the Chicago Building Trades Council, in the name of organized labor endorsed the American Legion and presented Chicago Union Labor Post No. 745 with a beautiful stand of colors. In their addresses these men stressed the great community of interest that existed between organized labor and the Legion. Since then, we have had their fullest co-operation, as well as that of the other officers of the various unions in Chicago. The Legion in turn, has co-operated with them in many ways, notably on last Labor Day, when there was a fine turnout in the big parade. James Murphy of the plumbers' union, who was instrumental in the organization of the Chicago Union Labor Post, has assisted in the formation of several similar posts in Detroit, San Francisco, and other cities, and stands



PAUL G. ARMSTRONG

(Continued on page 102)

# Yale Man's Book on Rail Unions Weighed

*By HAROLD E. CHUDLEIGH, Railroad Labor Research Foundation*

In this era of great industrial complexity the work of labor unionism becomes increasingly manifold. The labor organizations have two main functions, the protection of the immediate interests of their members and the extension of collective responsibility in economic affairs. Among the more constructive work of labor is the increasing acquaintanceship, through participation, with the methods and functioning of management. In Professor Wood's recent book<sup>\*</sup> an example of this newer tendency, as found on certain of the North American railroads, is described in some detail. This is the development known as union-management co-operation.

Union-management co-operation represents the growth of the workers' responsibility inside the industry, with the local co-operative conference of union shop representatives and management as working the tool. It is thus complementary to the broader work of unions in acquiring the right to aid in determining the general direction and policies of economic organizations.<sup>†</sup> Most schemes of employer-employee co-operation, i. e., those entailing the establishment of private (company) unions, are suspect and rightly so. Under union-management co-operation, however, increased status is achieved within the framework of existing union agreements and with the moral and effective backing of the bona-fide labor organizations. The worker regards the labor process as part of his environment of self-realization, without necessarily undermining the freedom of himself and his fellows, as expressed through unionism, to think out and elaborate the means of applying a long period, dynamic labor program.

Professor Wood's opening chapters provide a useful source of reference, describing the historical background of the movement, the technical and legal conditions prevailing in the railroad industry, and the organization of the labor force.

#### How Plan Works

Following are chapters revealing the technique of the co-operative plan and giving an illuminating account of the manner in which suggestions are submitted and treated. Considering the difficulty a person outside an industry has in describing unfamiliar technical operations, Professor Wood has done remarkably well. Occasionally, however, one feels that the author has failed to appreciate to the full the standpoint of

\*Wood, Louis Aubrey: *Union-Management Cooperation on the Railroads*. New Haven: Yale University Press. \$4.

†For indications of these wider aspects, see, for example, a paper on *Trade Union Planning in the Electrical Industry*, submitted by M. H. Hedges, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, to the Bureau of Personnel Administration, New York, November, 1931.

#### Increasing public interest in union co-operative management suggested by study published by eastern university.

the men in the shops. Groups in society, at best, are altruistic only to the extent of the purpose for which they are organized. Men employed where co-operation prevails are seeking definite betterment in their circumstances. That improvement of morale which has appeared must be regarded realistically. Through the fulfillment of these plans, the men seek to achieve something—co-operation is a further extension of trade union action for a legitimate end.

Greatest interest will inevitably center on those sections of Professor Wood's work which deal with results. These can be divided on a qualitative-quantitative basis. That is, only some of them are possible of measurement. A chapter is devoted to the improvement of morale and undoubtedly, from the employers' standpoint, this represents the chief qualitative gain. On the workers' side, however, the far-seeing visualize much more than this. The working time of an individual is a considerable proportion of his whole, and co-operation gives him a stake in the job. Advanced labor thinkers have always desired an extension of industrial responsibility through the workshop.

#### Incentive Wage Payments Hit

Relevant to the life of the shop are the remarks of the writer on incentive wage payment. It is curious that a work on union-management co-operation should suggest the desirability of such proposals, even if the railroad industry were one in which such methods could be adopted. Incentive wage payments necessarily lead to individual competition among workers and are inconsistent with joint action on the part of employees. In a true industrial democracy the maximization of effort would not be considered a desirable social end. Organization would imply a point where the utility of the services produced, after discounting for the disutility of effort and sacrifice (if any) exerted, would be the maximum. Such

an approach would take account of the workshop life, and all "rushing" or incentive to "rush" would be discarded.

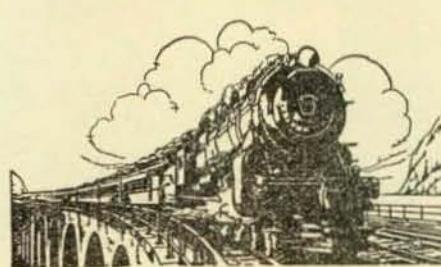
Coming to the more tangible results of union-management co-operation, confessedly little can be shown. This does not mean, however, that they are not present. Division can be made between the direct and indirect results of the plan. The problem with the former is one of measurement. Professor Wood has an exceptionally good chapter devoted to this. It is difficult to discover, except in a few cases, to what extent an improvement is due to the operation of the co-operative plan. At some repair points attempts are made to estimate costs and savings with reference to particular suggestions, and undoubtedly these have value. Nevertheless, in most cases the results are spread over a large number of jobs, and are indivisible. It is also necessary to determine whether certain improvements would not have occurred in spite of co-operation. As the author points out, however, attempts are being made on the Canadian National Railways and elsewhere to devise improved measurement, and the growth of the science of statistics will aid in so doing.

#### Benefits Measured

Regarding the indirect results, estimation is still more difficult, though general statements can be made. Improvements in lighting, heating, sanitation and the methods of working have brought definite benefits to the men, and incidentally, although this is not the significant factor, have improved efficiency. Then there is the far more important problem of stabilization of employment. A great deal has been done in transferring construction and repair work from outside contractors to inside the railroad shops. And in so far as co-operation has improved the status of the employees, so it has increased their negotiating power with respect not only to employment stabilization but to wages, hours and general working conditions. Conditions on those railroads where co-operation exists have their reaction on other railroads. Mention may also be made of the apprentice schemes which have been influenced greatly by the co-operative system. This has been especially evident on the Baltimore and Ohio and Canadian National.

The closing chapters describe the extension of union-management co-operation in branches of the railroad industry other than the maintenance of equipment departments (to which the author has confined his attention) as well as its appearance in other industries.

Generally, this book of Professor Wood's is well worth consideration by trade unionists within and without the railroad industry, and should appear on the shelves of all union libraries.



# Poem Out of Past Limns Labor's Struggle

**C**HRISTIANA (MRS FRED) BERTRAM saw Budd McKillip's poem, "Labor Defiant" in the December number. Mrs. Bertram, wife of a member of the union, living in Tenafly, N. J., reads widely. She knows verse when she hears it. She reminded us, "Labor Defiant is a stirring poem." Then she recalled that in her scrap-book at home, she had saved another stirring poem of an earlier day, "The Breadwinner's Ballad," by Robert McIntyre. She offered to send us the full text of this work, and a sketch of Dr. McIntyre's life. Evidence that we accepted this gracious offer is prominent on this page. McIntyre's poem will interest every person with a taste for lilting, ringing verse. That McIntyre was a working man is plain by the words he uses, the plain, hard words of daily life. But he weaves them into patterns of beauty like—"They stretch the heavy bridge that hangs a roadway in the sky."

The prophecy contained in the last stanza will strike many readers as utopian.

We are indebted to Mrs. Bertram for the following sketch of McIntyre's life:

### Was a Mason's Boy

"Robert McIntyre was born in Selkirk, Scotland, November 20, 1851. His parents moved to Philadelphia while he was a boy. He was apprenticed to a mason. The hours were long but he managed to study. He worked for years as a mason.

"In 1878 he began preaching. His sturdy manhood, indomitable energy and determination, together with great natural ability made him one of the leading preachers and lecturers in the West.

"Dr. McIntyre never forgot his experiences while working as a laboring man. His hearty sympathy is shown in his poem entitled, 'The Breadwinner's Ballad.'"

This lyric, written more than 10 years before the establishment of the American Federation of Labor suggests a line of thought. How many labor poems, how many labor stories penned, circulated perhaps in obscure places, worthy of preservation, have been lost?

The labor tradition is an oral tradition. The hurly-burly of the worker's life, the ever-pressing job of winning bread is not conducive to literary effort. The poem is but a tool—of momentary usefulness, tossed off as a by-product of struggle, or a song urging to battle.

### Unions Chronicle Labor

Probably one of the unrecorded services rendered by labor unions has been the founding of newspapers and magazines in which the stories and verse written by men on the job could be preserved.

Reader sends in popular ballad of 1870's. "The Breadwinner's Ballad" has significance for every one who toils. Perhaps many hundreds of worthy poems written by working men have been lost.

It is a mistake not to think that literature has value to the movement. A movement without its songs, its slogans, its tunes, its literature is like an army without a bugle or a drummer. It is a dead army.

Mrs. Bertram adds a word of criticism. "The Breadwinner's Ballad, from a modern standpoint might not be characterized as 'good' poetry, for it does not seem to scan well. But McIntyre was sincere."

## THE BREADWINNER'S BALLAD

By ROBERT MCINTYRE

At break of day and set of sun we hear their heavy tread.  
God's old brigade, all undismayed, they battle for daily bread.  
And they laugh to know that long ago the Lord of life and death  
Fared forth at dawn, and home at dusk, with them in Nazareth.  
Foreheads white for lack of light, or brows all brown with grime,  
Their garments black with soot and slack, or gray with mason's lime,  
They ring the trowel, push the plane, they travel the stormy deep,  
They click the type and clang the press, when loved ones are asleep.  
Through the city street and the country lane their lusty voices ring;  
By the roasting forge in the mountain gorge this cheery song they sing:

*Oh, we march away in the early morn,  
As we have since the world began  
Don't muzzle the ox that treadeth the corn,  
Leave a share for the working man.*

Some are workmen, coarse and strong, and some are craftsmen fine,  
They set the plow, they steer the raft, they sweat in sunless mine;  
They lift the sledge and rive the wedge, they hide with cunning art  
The power where the spark can tear the mountain's granite heart.  
They reap the fields of ripened grain, and fill the lands with bread;  
They make the ore give up its gold beneath the stamp mills tread;  
They spread the snowy sail aloft, they sweep the dripping seine,  
They waft the wife a fond farewell, and they ne'er come home again.

*But they march away in the early morn,  
As they have since the world began.  
Don't muzzle the ox that treadeth the corn,  
Leave a share for the working man.*

They make the fiery furnace flow in streams of spouting steel;  
They bend the planks and brace the ribs along the oaken keel;  
They fold the flock, they feed the herd, they in the forest hew,  
And with the whetstone on the scythe beat labor's sweet tattoo;  
They climb the coping, swing the crane, and set the capstone high;  
They stretch the heavy bridge that hangs a roadway in the sky;  
They speed the shuttle, spin the thread and weave the silken weft;  
Or crushed to death amid the wreck, they leave the home bereft.

*But they march away in the early morn,  
As they have since the world began.  
Don't muzzle the ox that treadeth the corn,  
Leave a share for the working man.*

In ancient days they were but serfs, and by the storied Nile  
Unhappy hordes, they drew the cords around the heathen pile.  
Where Karnak, Tyre and Carthage stood, where roll Euphrates' waves,  
Grim gods look down with stony frown upon the hapless slaves.  
That day is past, thank Heaven, no more does Man the Toiler bow  
His mighty head with fear and dread, for he is Master now.  
His hand is strong, his patience long, his wholesome blood is calm,  
Within his soul sits peace enthroned, and on his lips a psalm:

*Oh, we march away in the early morn,  
As we have since the world began.  
Don't muzzle the ox that treadeth the corn,  
Leave a share for the working man.*

# JOURNAL OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

Official Publication International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Devoted  
to the  
Cause



of  
Organized  
Labor

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No. 2

**Whom Gods Wish to Destroy** Statisticians of the National Industrial Conference Board find that the

national wealth has not been greatly impaired. We are still the richest country in the world. The statisticians fix the sum of 329.7 billions of dollars as our total money value as a nation in 1930. The drop from 1929 to 1930 is placed at 32 billions of dollars.

Our national debt is about 16 billions of dollars, or a little more than five per cent of the total wealth. An increase of seven or eight billion dollars in the national debt would mean a mortgage of about eight per cent upon the total national wealth. This should not seem excessive even to apostles of private initiative.

State and city indebtedness possibly may increase this sum 12 or 13 billions of dollars. The total still remains less than the sum expended for the World War and makes the total mortgage upon America's vast wealth but a small fraction.

Yet those bankers and business men who enthusiastically welcome an increase in the national debt of several billion dollars to supplement the credit facilities of the nation, are now horror-stricken that labor wants five billion dollars spent on public works.

The arguments of the bankers take on the air of conclusiveness. The money is not available, they say. In short, they are prepared to dictate vital national policies for the federal government just as they have dictated municipal policies for the great cities of New York and Detroit. New York has greatly cut its public works program as a result. The answer is, of course, a disagreeable one. If the United States cannot raise five billion dollars to expend on needed physical improvements in order to aid the unemployed and business in general, it better declare itself bankrupt and proceed out upon new lines.

Little—almost nothing—has been done for the unemployed. The seven million jobless have got along only by three heroic treatments: (1) They have taxed their physical stamina (in the wellknown vernacular, they have taken it out of their hides); (2) they have used up their slender surplus, mortgaged their entire futures; and (3) they have taxed their relatives, friends and organizations to keep them from want. Now these resources are about gone. The policy of relief through private charity is an absolute failure. Municipalities are incapable of extending aid. Real want—starvation—waits just beyond.

The public works program has the double merit of relieving the jobless, and of stimulating business. Thawing out frozen assets—the intent of the finance bills—is not enough; work must be supplied, purchasing power of the underlying population restored.

It is futile now to talk about the policies of bankers which have plunged the richest nation of the world into this need. It is useless to remind them that it was their speculative orgy, their wholesale, indiscriminate investments abroad, which make up the chief cause of the debacle.

No sign of shame or repentance manifests itself in them. No sign of changed policy appears. They are just as heady, just as unreasonable, just as greedy, just as blind. In short, they belong to the historical crew of wrecking reactionaries, who never learn from experience. Whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make mad.

**Singing a Different Tune**

The lot of the wage-cutters is not all roses. They are having a hard time to synchronize their various campaigns.

Wage-cutting is a part of a policy of deflation. Bank subsidization (through the various new finance corporations) is a form of inflation. As a result, we have the bankers and their apologists playing different tunes on the same harp. In one column of their publications they blare out the need for wage-cuts, and in another they press forward the fact that deflation has gone far enough. A body of economists, headed by Warren M. Persons, former Harvard professor, warns that the downward plunge of prices must be halted, and credit expanded.

Lieutenant-Governor Lehman, of New York, a banker by trade, declared publicly the other day that "any unreasonable reduction of wages, or lowering of standards in factory, shop or store, or other exploitation of the dire necessities of a great and fine part of our population will serve no purpose, but further to weaken the economic structure and disorganize society."

Even the reactionary *Journal of Commerce* (New York) declared editorially:

"More serious, however, than erratic and inconsiderate reductions in rates of pay which can be later corrected are the changes introduced under pressure into the conduct of the work itself. Even in good times it is necessary to struggle against a lowering of standards which takes the form of exploitation of the worker and inadequate provision for his physical comfort and welfare. In periods of depression ground is sure to be lost since, unless he is strongly organized, the average worker has little resistance power at a time when competition for employment is fierce. Consequently, as Lieutenant-Governor Lehman says, 'care and wisdom are required in the treatment of the difficult situation now faced by industry and labor alike.'"

Added to this, was a stirring warning, which the *New York Times* published conspicuously upon its financial pages:

"During the week a newspaper published the annual statement of a large tobacco manufacturing company showing earnings higher than in 1930. Immediately below there was printed a dispatch from an important tobacco-growing district which declared that the farmers averaged only half their usual income, due to low prices.

"The moral is too apparent to need mention. Extend such instances to the country as a whole and there would be little hope of anything but economic chaos. The relation between profits, whether in dividends or exorbitant salaries, is probably as responsible as anything else for our recurring business cycles. Purchasing power of the many becomes too small to keep alive the demand on which profits and dividends depend."

These are real warning signals flying in the wind, but will the profit-mad heed them?

**A Labor Responsibility** Heavy opposition in Congress against public works bills and other relief measures is at this writing mobilized. The inertia engendered by a campaign year, the propaganda of big taxpayers, the refusal of business organizations to support the measure, are hard to overcome. But the La Follette public works bill is a scientifically drawn bill designed to give work to the unemployed by performing needed construction, and it is more. It is a bill designed to set up a permanent Administration of Public Works, which is charged with the important task of so spacing government jobs, that they will tend to level off the business cycle.

Because it is a sane, scientific proposal, backed by the best opinions, labor can well make it a permanent part of its legislative program, and whether it meets with approval of special privilege today or not, to work continuously for its passage.

This is not all. Affairs are moving very rapidly. Changes are swift and momentous. Crises merge into crises. It is likely that within a month or six weeks the whole economic picture will have changed, and not even the big tax-payer, the banker, the business man, and the professional lobbyist can head off the public works bills. Labor can perform a service by continually pressing for their passage.

**"Ethical" Journalism** One Sunday morning in December the Washington Star carried a copyrighted article on its front page signed by Frederic William Wile, who, as the radio announcers like to have it, is an "internationally known newspaper correspondent."

This article levelled a bold attack on building trades unions, declaring that the occupation of the new U. S. Department of Commerce Building was delayed by adherence to union technicalities, the delay costing the government many thousands of dollars.

Mr. Wile is the kind of newspaper man, who likes to strut before high school and college classes, and talk pompously about "the ethics of the journalistic profession."

Late in January, the Washington Star published a correction of this article—this time on an inside page, on a week-day. The correction came in the form of a letter from Consolidated Engineering Company, constructors of the new Commerce Building. The builders declared that the contract set June 1, 1932, as the date for completion of the new building, and that the record of much earlier completion is "one of which anyone can be proud," and "we have received favorable commendation from many sources."

The letter reveals that the government did at one time con-

sider occupancy of the center section of the Commerce Building earlier than the others, but that "it abandoned the plan irrespective of the extra cost, because numerous and drastic changes have been made in the center section during the entire year of 1931, and these changes would not have been possible at the price bid had the building been occupied."

Thus the internationally known newspaper correspondent, with his ethical struttin's, is proved a writer of cheap propaganda against the craftsmen, whose skill, loyalty, and competency made the early completion of the building possible.

**New York's Achievement** Electrical Workers' Local Union No. 3, of New York, has probably as difficult an environment in which to operate as any in the United States. In the metropolis, powerful employer organizations are centered. They are rich, active and secretive. They have been accustomed to employ tactics against labor unions which will not bear the light of day. They wait on the side-lines. They familiarize themselves with any discontent which may show itself, however small, seek, often by venal means, to widen the dissension, broaden the gaps, and tear the union wide open with strife.

Now a period of prolonged unemployment always gives rise to discontent. Unfortunate, hungry, baffled men listen to wily tongues much more readily than busy, employed men. Quite recently this office has been made aware that some agency was seeking to corrupt the New York local with a fresh batch of falsehoods—lies so bald, extreme and exaggerated that no man in his right senses would believe them. Until recently there was reason to believe the local might be damaged by the under-current of suspicion thus set in motion.

But the local officers met the situation frankly. At a regular meeting they drew the issue clear. The union voted overwhelmingly to support administration measures. Another conspiracy engineered from the outside had failed.

The New York incident has a lesson for the whole membership. Union men have a right to suspect the honesty of any rabid, loud-talking critic of union management. Honest union men don't present their criticism that way. They don't try to start a mutiny. They try constructive ways to meet emergencies, and by going to their officers, in a spirit of co-operation. Where a member employs other tactics, it is legitimate to question his motives, and to inquire, what interest other than that of this organization is he seeking to serve?

**To Be Noted** The most bitter and revealing debate of the congressional session came upon the question of federal relief of the jobless. The uncompromising work of Senator Costigan and Senator La Follette was negated by much sophistry on the other side. . . . Five million unionists will be glad to know that the Senate judiciary committee has voted out favorably a new anti-injunction bill. This bill outlaws the yellow dog contract, and is designed to stop injunction abuse. . . . The anti-injunction bill comes at a time when sentiment among business men is strong against the anti-trust laws. Strange, most of the injunctions issued depend upon the anti-trust laws for their spurious validity.



# WOMAN'S WORK

## THE UNION IS WORTHY OF YOUR FAITH

By a WORKER'S WIFE

THESE are discouraging times. But getting discouraged does not bring a single ray of light into the darkness, in fact, it makes people shut their eyes to whatever hopeful signs might be seen if they were in the mood to look. I know many of the wives of our members are worried; they have had financial troubles, for work is scarce, and bank failures have wiped out the savings of many families. Institutions whose safety was a by-word have crashed; and prominent men whose "word was as good as their bond" have broken promises.

But there is one institution in which we all have a part that stands sound and unshakable, and one group of men who have kept, and will keep their word. That is our union and our officers. And that ray of light that encourages all who have a part in this organization is the courageous spirit of the membership. It's not the cocksure attitude of the man who has never faced real difficulties; nor is it the melodramatic "do or die for old Siwash"; it's rather the quiet, determined faith of men who realize that we are in a tremendous struggle and that our greatest hope for decent living and working conditions lies in the concerted effort made through our union.

I suppose you may wonder why I think we women should think of it as "our" union. Well, we have had the benefit of more money to spend than if the I. B. E. W. had not been on the job to keep up wages. We have had the protection of the insurance which has been maintained for our particular benefit. And we have had the comfortable feeling of knowing that no matter how little we were able to lay away for old age, the Brotherhood pension fund was steadily accumulating on our behalf. Isn't that reason enough that we should feel it's our union? In addition to this we have had the satisfaction of knowing, each woman of us, that her husband had kept his self-respect, had fulfilled his responsibility to others and could take a satisfactory pride in his work.

### Union is Real Protection

Union electricians are men of intelligence. Even though they may be out of work or on short time, they realize, as they look about them, how much worse is the condition of the man who never joined a union, who has no way to protect his wage scale when starving men, eager for jobs, are anxious to do

the work for less, and who finds himself either cut to a bare subsistence wage, or out of work with nothing to fall back upon but cold public charity.

The union is able to maintain its scale. Few employers are willing to engage in a fight with a militant group like this. However, the good judgment of our officers, local and International, coupled with the good spirit of union contractors, has almost entirely proven that all disputes may be settled by peaceful methods. Where it is inevitable that the scale must be adjusted, the change is made by negotiation, and for a stated time only.

The out-of-work Brother may well be thankful that he is still a union man. Don't you wives realize that the International and the local unions have, and are, struggling to aid every man to keep his insurance and pension standing as well, furnishing you with protection that you need now more than ever? The union is paying for this, and it is giving you security for your future. If you think this is not worth something just ask a life insurance agent to figure for you what it would cost you to buy similar insurance and pension as an individual.

Any Brother who neglects to make the very simple reports that are necessary to keep him in good standing while unemployed, is doing a very great injury to himself and his family. Why don't you just remind him from time to time, if your husband is one of those who should report? He may be discouraged and blue, thinking "what's the use?" but your common sense will show you that this is really important.

When these bitter times are over and we will be starting on the upgrade once more, our union machine must be in good repair for the long pull ahead. Carlton E. Meade, of Local No. 86, Rochester, N. Y., sums it up vigorously in the January JOURNAL:

"We are going through the most trying times since the beginning of organized labor. Never before has such an array of capital and political influences been aligned against us. We are in a struggle for the maintenance of the very principles for which we are organized, make no mistake about that."

"We must back up our officers, local and International, they are trying to help us."

"We are in a desperate struggle, and, as a whole, are on the defensive. We must entrench ourselves and fight back intelligently, holding our organization

intact. If conditions demand it we must make concessions. We might better abandon some things than lose standards of work and living that took 50 years to build up.

"Without an organization, what can we expect? Nothing but intolerable working conditions and starvation wages—serfdom, the very things that organized labor has fought against since 1881."

### Membership Rallies to Standard

This is only one of the many courageous letters in the January number. Dozens of expressions of faith in the stability and value of the union were made last month. This is not exceptional, for you cannot read through the correspondence section of any JOURNAL without finding in many letters this same expression of faith and pride in the union, coupled with determination of the writer, which you realize means the group he is writing for, to keep the union what it is, never wavering, ever progressing. Even now, when you might expect these writers to feel worried and discouraged, there is no grumbling. Isn't that a ray of light? It means that morale is good in the locals, that our boys are not giving way to weakness and despair. I want you to read a few paragraphs I have picked from some of the letters so that you will see the fine spirit that prevails, not in any particular locality, but generally all over the territory that the Brotherhood controls.

The scribe from L. U. No. 105, Hamilton, Ontario, J. E. McNamara, tells what conditions used to be "less than four years ago," before the local was organized, and relates the very satisfying improvements that have been made even in these hard times. He continues:

"I have no need to tell our members that these improvements were obtained through this organization but, 'lest we forget,' which is so easy, I want to remind them of these facts, then perhaps we could all agree that we have had good value for our money, then go on pulling together for still better conditions."

"Our International Officers stand head and shoulders up, fearless, trustworthy and fighting for the right as they see it," says Herman R. Armbruster, of Local No. 193, Springfield, Ill. "Read the December WORKER and then you will have some idea of what has been accomplished and what they are trying to do. It is no guess work with them, they have a set program mapped out and with

other organizations they expect to do great things for the I. B. E. W. We as members should give them our loyal support.

"International President Broach is one of the ablest, if not the ablest labor official in the United States and Canada."

#### Real Loyalty Shown

Writing under the title, "Who Pays the Freight?" Gene Gaillac, business manager of Local No. 595, Oakland, Calif., says, "We are not downhearted out here in the land of wide open faces." He tells an instance that, he says, restored his faith in human nature and is well worth hearing:

"An old timer came in to pay his quarterly dues in advance. He joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers before I was born. He is still a good electrician and in normal times works quite steadily. He has been on the shelf practically this whole year through sickness, operation and slack times. I hated to take his dough and said as much. Right there I learned something about unionism. He said in no uncertain terms that the union dues came first on his list. He never had been carried and wouldn't be as long as there was anything left to put on the ice."

From Cleveland, Ohio, "Bill" Blake of L. U. 912, writes this:

"We have passed through one of the most trying years that the labor organizations of this country have ever experienced and conditions indicate that the worst of the struggle is yet to come. Now is the time when every local officer and member should put his shoulder to the wheel and work for the organization. Forget your personal likes and dislikes. If a man is a good union man, co-operate with him whether you like his Aunt Hattie's standing in the social register or not. An officer who publicly criticises the organization or its officers is guilty of violating his oath of office. We must hold every member and stand united if we hope to hold what we have gained in the last decade. What we do now will decide what the future will be. Stand pat, or lose everything and start the long uphill climb all over again."

The wife who is so worried that she can't help being a little grouchy should read the Copyist's letter from Local No. 212, Cincinnati, but I don't want to print it in full. If you are feeling blue, I wish you would read it, however, I'm sure it would make you sympathize with "Bill" and do that important part that only you can do, to help him.

#### Sunlight in Darkness

And if you want to read of the efforts that many locals are making to furnish relief for their unemployed members, you will find the correspondence section every month tells of the plans that are being used here, there, and everywhere. In conclusion, I want you to read this tribute to the union from Brother Corrazza, of L. U. No. 214, Chicago:

"Yet behind this dark horizon through which we are groping our way there still



*A practical spring fashion is the ensemble of "spectator sports" type which might be copied by the home seamstress. Red, white and blue striped cotton suiting is combined with white wide-wale corduroy. The lining of the top coat is cut on the diagonal to match a similar treatment in the skirt. A cotton broadcloth blouse is worn under the sleeveless jumper top of corduroy. The mannish scarf and hat of the material used in the costume are truly ensemble details and the outfit has the further advantage of being washable. Courtesy Cotton Textile Institute.*

rises a shining cloud, and this bright cloud is our union. Were it not for our organization we would still be further enmeshed in the gulf of despair. And were it not for our few honest-to-goodness members within our local union, who are willing to make still further sacrifices to help a Brother in distress, life would not be much more than a dark cloud. (The writer speaks from recent experiences.) Remember, Brothers, especially you of Local No. 214, who may be in distress and perhaps are

on the verge of dropping your membership in your local union, think back on what the organization has done for you, for it is your union, together with others who have in every depression borne the brunt of all workingmen's battles. They are constantly on the alert, watching and initiating legislation for your benefit—fighting bills inimical to labor in general. It is they who are always on the job, fighting wage cuts, and accepting them only after all other resources have failed."

# CONSTRUCTIVE HINTS

## TYPE OB WATTHOUR METERS

### Alternating-Current Application

The real advantages of watthour meter are determined by the following factors: Its ability to register accurately under all load conditions; its ability to maintain this accuracy for long periods of time with minimum attention and expense; its reliability; low internal losses; its independence of normal variations of temperature, voltage, power, factor, wave form, and frequency; its turbances, or abnormal vibrations; its ability to start at very light loads, and its capacity for overloads. A meter should also be of light, compact and strong mechanical construction, easy to install, and easy to test.

### Distinctive Features

The OB meter is so designed electrically that it meets the above requirements, and so designed mechanically that it cannot easily be thrown out of adjustment. These qualities give it the important characteristics of being able to maintain its initial high accuracy for long periods of service with little or no attention and maintenance expense. The accuracy is especially high at the lower end of the load curve as it should be, because for the greater part of the time the actual load on a meter is but a small percentage of its capacity. Some of the factors which have resulted in these important characteristics are: refinements of the design of the bearings, moving element, electromagnets, permanent magnet, register and case construction.

### Operation

OB watthour meters operate on the induction principle. In a perfect meter the driving torque would be exactly proportional to the product of the voltage, current and power factor of the circuit, and the retarding force would be exactly proportional to the speed—friction being absent—in which case a direct ratio would exist between the speed and the energy passing through the meter, thus giving it absolute accuracy throughout its entire load range. The more perfect a meter is, the greater will be the percentage of work expended usefully in driving the disc, and the more direct will be the ratio between the speed and the energy passing through the meter at all loads.

The OB meter more nearly approached the perfect meter because of (1) its high ratio of torque to friction, due to more perfect bearings and registering mechanism; (2) more constant ratio between energy and torque, due to more efficient design of the electromagnet; and (3) more direct ratio between effective torque and speed, due to the use of magnets made of special steel, treated, formed and aged by processes which assure permanency under the most severe service conditions.

**Performance Characteristics.** Low friction and the efficient torque characteristics of OB meters enable them to accurately register the smallest loads, such as bell-ringing transformers, motor-operated clocks, etc. OB accuracy is not affected appreciably by varying voltage or frequency. A 10 per cent change in voltage will not affect the accuracy of the OB meter

more than 0.3 per cent, and the maximum error for a 10 per cent change in frequency is less than 0.5 per cent in the 60-cycle meter.

OB electromagnets are uniform, a characteristic which permits the use of a single fixed power-factor compensation in a single phase meter. This gives correct compensation within 1½ per cent on power factors between 50 per cent lagging and leading. In polyphase meters the power-factor compensator is adjustable, but it is necessary only to check the power-factor compensation initially, the adjustment then remaining fixed until purposely changed.

OB meters are remarkably accurate over their entire load range. Overload compensation has been accomplished without disturbing the accuracy below full load. The compensation in the OB meter is so balanced that the load curve is practically a straight line from light load to beyond double load. Thus, over a range far greater than the residence-meter operates on the average, the OB meter has superior accuracy.

Temperature compensation both in the electromagnet and in the permanent magnet, is obtained by a method that utilizes the physical change of materials with change of temperature.

### Construction

**Base and Terminals.** The base is made of drawn steel in a special channel construction. While the base is smaller and lighter than a cast-iron base, the strength and rigidity of cast iron has been retained. The meter is mounted by two screws, one through the terminal chamber, the other through a top mounting lug loosely riveted to the back of the meter. Both screws are sealed by the terminal chamber.

Terminals are very accessible for connecting. The terminal is designed to use a special clamping screw which has an unusually large clamping surface. The 5-ampere meter terminal will hold a No. 4 wire securely.

**Electromagnet.** One-piece laminations form the complete magnetic circuit. They are held together in one solid, noise-proof unit by special copper rivets. The voltage and two current coils are all placed above the disc. This arrangement causes the series poles to be partially energized continuously from the potential coil, which eliminates the flux loss usually found in induction watthour meters. This important characteristic gives the OB meter exceptionally high ratio to work at light load. For this reason the light load compensator is not required in the OB meter to assist in overcoming the natural hysteresis lag, but it serves merely to compensate for slight variations in the characteristics of electromagnets. For these reasons the OB meter has no dip in the light load portion of load curve. Compensation for temperature and power factor are provided in the electromagnet.

**Permanent Magnet.** In maintaining permanent accuracy in a watthour meter, the permanent magnets have an important function.

The permanent magnets of OB meters are made of a high quality magnet steel properly heat-treated and adequately aged to assure permanency of calibration. The

magnet consists of two C-shaped magnets fastened together permanently by a strong non-ferrous alloy casting. This casting also supports the full load adjuster, so that calibration for full load is not destroyed when the permanent magnet is removed from the meter. Temperature compensation in the permanent magnets is obtained by the use of a magnetic disc located on the lower side of the full load adjuster.

**Frame.** The frame, like the base, is made of drawn steel. Besides serving as a magnetic shield between the electromagnet and the permanent magnet, the frame supports the meter elements, including the top and lower bearings. Thus the entire meter element may be removed from the base as a unit without disturbing the relation of any of its parts. Each assembly has a definite location and cannot be incorrectly assembled. On account of this important feature in the design of the OB meter, it can be completely dismantled and reassembled without losing the calibration.

**Moving Element.** The disc is made of aluminum and is 3 5/16 inches in diameter. Its surface is stippled to give it added strength. The shaft is made of an aluminum alloy that is strong and light. The shaft is swaged to correct diameter for the disc hub and the upper jewel bearing sleeve. Provision is made for testing all OB meters by means of the stroboscopic method. For this, the edge of the disc is notched.

**Bearings.** Since a watthour meter must maintain its accuracy over a long period of time, the initial friction, and especially increase in friction due to the wear of parts, must be kept at a minimum. The principal source of wear in a meter is the main shaft lower bearing.

In the OB meter the main shaft lower bearing consists of a very highly polished and hardened steel ball which revolves between two cup-shaped sapphire jewels. Not only, therefore, is the wear divided between two jewels, but, because of the minute gyrations of the ball, wear is distributed over the whole surface of the jewels. In other words, the ball bearing is equivalent to an infinite number of pivots. This bearing assures minimum friction and sustained accuracy with low maintenance cost. It will last almost indefinitely and requires no lubrication whatever, either for protection to the parts or to reduce normal friction. The lower section of the jewel bearing has a special flexible mounting which absorbs the natural vibration produced in alternating current electromagnets. This increases the life of the bearing, and makes it silent in operation.

The top, or guide bearing, consists of a polished steel spindle which fits into the top of the disc shaft. An olive-bronze ring with small contact surface is mounted in the top of the disc shaft pinion to receive the spindle. The spindle is continuously oiled by a lubricant sealed in the disc shaft.

**Register.** To facilitate reading, the figure and dial circles on the OB register are made larger than those of former meters. The register is mounted by means of two bayonets and may be easily removed and replaced without chance of incorrect mesh between the pinion on the

(Continued on page 110)



## BROADCASTING PROGRESS

By AUSTIN C. LESCARBOURA, Mem. I. R. E., Mem. A. I. E. E.

**A**LL branches of radio have progressed during the past year—marine, airplane and commercial radio, talking pictures, photo-electricity and broadcasting. In view of the fact that broadcasting concerns more people than any other branch of radio—an audience of about 50,000,000 radio listeners—a review of 1931 and a forecast of 1932 are in order.

Broadcasting has progressed in two directions, namely, the artistic and the technical. The former hardly concerns us here, except in so far as the technical advances of the year are used to better the artistic or program end of broadcasting. And, of course, the demand for improved programs has stimulated the technical achievements of 1931. In general it might be said that the progress in broadcasting has been in the nature of refinements and studies leading to the elimination of what have been the variable factors of broadcasting, static, weather conditions, fading and the like. Other years have witnessed more startling innovations, particularly in receiver design. In 1931 broadcasting has been improved more from the transmitter end, permitting greater radio enjoyment.

One of the most important advancements of the year was station synchronization, by means of which the limited broadcast band can be utilized to the greatest possible advantage. WTIC, of Hartford, and WBAL, of Baltimore, ordinarily share the 1060 kilocycle band. The stations share time, one remaining silent while the other broadcasts. Thus, the excellent equipment of each station was wasted many hours daily, due to enforced silence while the other was broadcasting. Last March synchronization was commenced and has been used ever since. While Baltimore is using the 1060 kilocycle band Hartford shifts to 660 kilocycles, the band of WEAF, of New York, and synchronized with WEAF, broadcasts the programs transmitted by that station. Before the development of synchronization Hartford and WEAF would have interfered with each other were they to broadcast on the same band at the same time, since they are situated quite close to each other, and operate on high power. Now Hartford need not be off the air while Baltimore is using their mutual band. And when Hartford is using 1060 kilocycles Baltimore shifts to 760 kilocycles, the band of WJZ, and, synchronized with that station, broadcasts its programs. Thus, both Hartford and Baltimore are on the air full time without interference with either each other or the two network key stations with which they are synchronized.

### How Reciprocity Works

The development which has made this possible, and which we call syn-

chronization, amounts to locking the wavelengths of the two stations in question so closely together that no interference results. The carrier wave of predetermined frequency is generated from a central frequency generator and simultaneously transmitted to both stations. This assures the same frequency to each station, since the stations act as amplifiers only rather than generators, and interference is eliminated. The Federal Radio Commission is now deciding whether the progress of synchronization thus far and the developments now under way to adapt the practice to stations far removed from each other warrants the expansion of this system.

Another technical advance of the past year is the development of improved wire lines. Network stations, and this applies to all networks, are linked together by wire lines, somewhat different from the ordinary telephone lines, chiefly in that the radio network lines can carry a wider range of frequencies, or tonal range. Until 1931 the wire lines were the weak link in the network program. The microphone, the amplifier, the transmitter and the usual receiver could handle a wider range of frequencies than could the wire lines.

Thus, if the program included notes from the very low note represented by 30 cycles to the very high note represented by 10,000 cycles, people listening to the program from a network station other than that from which the program was originating, could hear only the notes between 100 and 4,800 cycles, for that was the limit of the frequency range handled by the wire lines. All the rest was lost, the low bass notes and the high violin notes.

### New Wires Strong

The year 1931 witnessed the development of wires that could handle from 40 to 7,500 cycles, not quite the range handled by the transmitters but quite an improvement. The low limit will soon be stretched to 30 cycles. The telephone company has already installed the new wire lines from New York to Washington and west to Chicago. St. Louis will soon be added. Then, in accordance with its development program the telephone company will install the improved lines in other circuits until they will replace all the present ones.

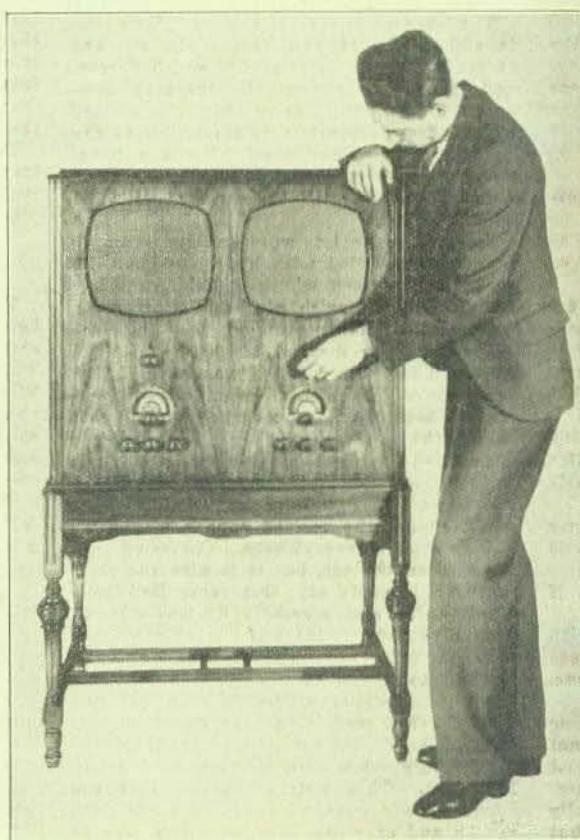
Another improvement of the last year is the phase corrector employed in networks using long wire lines. It is a scientific fact that some frequencies travel faster than others through wire, they do not all travel at precisely the speed of light.

Ordinarily the middle frequencies travel fastest, then the lows, then highs, and are received in that order, causing a hum or blurred effect, which many listeners have noted in programs originating hundreds of thousands of miles away, and carried to the local station over wire lines. The phase corrector equalizes the speed with which all the frequencies travel through the wires, or rather, compensates for the speed differences. It is this development which makes it so difficult, indeed, well nigh impossible to differentiate between programs originating near at hand from those coming through thousands of miles of wire line. The present Lucky Strike program, which jumps from one city to another, sometimes broadcasting from three cities thousands of miles apart on one evening without any difference in quality, is made possible largely by this development.

### Meet the New "Mike"

One of the most interesting advances of 1931 is the parabolic or reflector microphone. The ordinary microphone is faced to the source of the sound to be picked up. The parabolic "mike" is faced away from the sound. But in back of the "mike" is a large wood reflector, much like an enormous wooden chopping bowl, which may be focused on the source of the sound, which strikes this bowl.

(Continued on page 102)



Combination Sight and Sound Receiver, With Sound at Left, Sight at Right. The Pictures Appear on the Screen at Right.

# EVERYDAY SCIENCE

## Connecticut River Electric Power for Boston in 1931

With the rapid progress now being made in the completion of the dam and power house on the Connecticut River at Fifteen Mile Falls, between East Barnet, Vt., and Littleton, N. H., and the erection of the 126-mile transmission line from the power house on the New Hampshire side to Tewksbury, Mass., it is expected that electric power will be available for use in Boston, and other eastern Massachusetts points, in 1931. It is expected that some of the turbines will be in operation late in August or early in September, and that energizing of the line and testing will be completed so as to enable power to be transmitted in 1931.

The four turbines in the power house will have a rating of 105,000 kilowatts. Electricity will be transmitted at 220,000 volts to Tewksbury. This is the first line of this voltage to be constructed in New England.

At some future time another dam of slightly less capacity will be erected at a point about seven and one-half miles above this new dam, making the total development at Fifteen Mile Falls approximately 300,000 horsepower.

## Research Notes—Imprisoning the Molecule

In the evening, after a scorching, hot day, some people sprinkle the porch and sidewalk, as well as the lawn. Evaporation is the process of changing a liquid to a vapor—such a change uses up energy, and leaves the porch and sidewalk cooler than they were before.

After you've played tennis, or hoed the garden, and are all hot and tired and covered with perspiration, standing in a breeze will cool you off rapidly—sometimes too rapidly. The perspiration evaporates quickly, taking heat from the body to do so, and so you are cooled.

Now that's exactly the way the refrigerator works. Some liquid is allowed to evaporate, that is, changed into a gas; as it evaporates it uses up—absorbs—a lot of heat.

Then the gas is cooled and squeezed together and it changes back again into a liquid, ready once more to do some cooling. In order to make the refrigerator work, day in and day out, year after year, that gas and liquid must be kept tightly sealed. If it were all liquid, the job wouldn't be so bad. It's the business of playing jailer to a flock of gas molecules that turns hair gray.

Engineers solved this problem on paper by saying in effect, "All we have to do is build a 'prison' so tight that gas molecules can't possibly escape. We can do that if we weld the joints."

So they built a lot of evaporators with welded joints, tested them carefully to see if there were any gas leaks, found none, and so everybody was happy.

Happy, that is, until one day some time later, one of the evaporators did leak—not much of a leak, I'll grant, but a leak just the same. The evaporator had been carefully welded, and still more carefully tested, and it seemed to be all right, but later this leak was discovered.

To some people, it might not seem so dreadful to have one out of a good many

evaporators develop a leak—but that one just took the joy out of life for those refrigerator engineers. They'd planned so carefully to build prisons from which nothing could escape—and here was news of a prison break!

So engineers and laboratory scientists put their heads together. First, they decided to use a different sort of weld—one made possible by Dr. Langmuir's discovery of the peculiar way in which hydrogen gas behaves. This new welding process, called atomic hydrogen welding, is much more effective than the older methods in preventing tiny holes. So no more trouble should result.

But while these engineers were looking for prisons that gas couldn't escape, they did a thorough job. They found that Dr. Coolidge, a long time ago, discovered that copper, under certain conditions, behaves the way you'd like to when you've made a social error. There are times when the best of people would like to crawl into a crack in the floor and hide. That's precisely what copper can be made to do, if you know how to do it—and the "how to do it" was what Dr. Coolidge discovered some time ago. He recorded what he saw in his notebook, and then went on about learning something else.

Looking through those well-preserved notebooks, the engineers learned how Dr. Coolidge came to find this trick copper has. The main job on hand at that time was learning to make ductile tungsten, and Dr. Coolidge, with his assistants, was heating powdered tungsten in furnaces filled with hydrogen gas.

That hydrogen was important. Tungsten is odd stuff. If you heat it in air, the atoms of tungsten get all hot and bothered, and grab off a few—usually three apiece—atoms of oxygen. The process of grabbing oxygen from the air is quite similar to the rusting of iron and steel. Rusting tungsten can be prevented by keeping air away from it; that's why the furnace is filled with hydrogen.

So, these scientists were heating tungsten in a furnace filled with hydrogen gas. To keep the tungsten where it belonged, they tied it in place with pieces of steel wire. Once, by accident, someone used a piece of copper wire instead of the usual steel wire. When the furnace was opened, Dr. Coolidge could see that the experiment was ruined, because the copper had melted and spilled the tungsten powder. But, being a good scientist, Coolidge saw more than the ruined experiment. He saw that the copper had run all over the place. Not only where you'd expect the melted copper would be, but practically everywhere. Curiosity may have killed the cat, but it is also the stuff research is made of. Out came Dr. Coolidge's knife, and presently he was digging around to see how thick the layer of copper was. A knife wouldn't give the answer—he had to use a microscope. Briefly, he found that copper melted in hydrogen gas "wets" other metals just as water wets a tablecloth. Usually copper doesn't do this stunt—only when the heating is done in hydrogen. This wetting means that the liquid copper runs all over the place, into cracks and crevices, into holes that are so small even a microscope wouldn't see them.

So, the refrigerator engineers gleefully built some huge hydrogen furnaces; they

nicknamed these furnaces zeppelins. First they welded their evaporators with the atomic hydrogen torch; then copper brazed them in these huge zeppelin furnaces. Shakespeare once said something about making assurance doubly sure—that's just what was done.

Leak! Not even so much as one gas atom. Why it would be easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a gas atom to go through those evaporators.

## Rural Electrification

Farm electrification is being studied at present with increasing interest as a potential field for very large sales of electrical apparatus and devices and current.

There are approximately 6,500,000 farms in the United States, of which less than 500,000 are receiving electric service from either central stations or individual light and power sets. Of the 6,000,000 now without electric service, it may be estimated that 4,000,000 are sufficiently prosperous to be able to meet the cost of electrification.

The purchasing power of the farms may be gauged to some extent by the fact that the total crops for 1926 were valued at over \$16,000,000,000, which was more than the combined total value of the output of ten of our leading industries.

Experiments are now under way in different sections of the country to determine the feasibility of farm electrification. The principal lines of study are: Methods of supplying current to the farmer at a cost that will be equitable and acceptable to both the farmer and the central station; the adaptation of farm machinery to electric drive; and methods of use whereby the farmer can utilize an amount of current that will constitute an attractive load from the central station standpoint.

The farm field may be broadly divided into two divisions—the electrification of the house and the electrification of the farm processes.

## Airport Boundary Light

The boundary lights are used to mark the boundaries of aviation fields so that oncoming pilots can see a pattern of the field. They are spaced from 200 to 300 feet apart. Where a quantity is required, it is advisable to use a constant current system, the cable being No. 8 B. & S. parkway. However, multiple sockets are listed for use where series circuits are not advisable.

Clear and inside-etched globes are used for boundary markers. Ruby globes are used for obstruction markers, being placed on pole lines and the highest points of buildings which are considered obstructions to taking off or landing. Green globes are placed to indicate the most favorable approaches to the field. The base is usually buried in the ground 18 inches and filled in with crushed stone or concrete. For the series system, current is supplied by a constant-current transformer, either station or pole type.

The 60 c. p. (600-lumen) series Mazda lamp is recommended for use with this fitting.

The pipe support is large enough to accommodate two parkway cables without removing lead cover.

# ON EVERY JOB

*There's a Laugh  
& Two*

Thanks to all our buddies who are determined to keep this column from suffering from the "doleful dole-less blues." Looks like we would be able to keep going awhile longer.

## Dig In, Brothers!

Here's a happy thought. It seems that a day's work brought a husky reward to a lineman recently. While digging a hole for a telephone pole at Ashtabula, Ohio, he uncovered a penny dated 1820. It was valued at more than \$100.

\* \* \*

Because of "over production," 3,000 bunches of bananas—in perfect condition—were hauled out to sea from Baltimore and dumped overboard.

They should have been made into oil for use of G. O. P. orators in the next Presidential campaign.

B. L. M.

\* \* \*

## When the Lineman Saw the Saw

M. J. (Martin) Boyle, one of the best known and best liked railway officials in the middle west, is a story teller extraordinary. He was telling us of a case of wire trouble he once had. For several days the lineman hunted a cross. He would go over the district, find nothing, and be told the line was clear. In a short time, the trouble would return and back the poor lineman would pump. At last he found it. Carpenters were working on a depot and the wires made a handy and most excellent place to lay a saw when it was not being used.

We might add that Mr. Boyle told us what the lineman said to the carpenter but this being a family journal and sometimes read by the women and children perhaps we better omit that part of the story.

—Train Despatcher.

\* \* \*

## The Crowning Can

Patrick O'Hara was considered a courageous lineman by all his fellow workers. One morning he showed up at the job with his face bruised and an eye discolored.

One of the boys said, "Why, Pat, what happened to you? Hit by a truck?"

"No, me wife hit me on me head wid tomatoes."

"Go on; who ever heard of any one getting hurt with tomatoes?"

"Just the same," said Pat, "I did. They were in the can."

G. L. MONSIVE,  
L. U. No. 595,

\* \* \*

## Hurry It Along

"What's your husband working on now?" the chemist's wife was asked.

"Anti-freeze solution that can be put into bank assets," replied his wife.

For some time we have been trying to find space for this cheerful ballad:

### The Bachelor's Ways

I sit by the sea and watch for a ship,  
A ship with a great smoke stack.  
I think of the story of "when my ship  
comes in"  
With the promised big pile of jack.  
I dream of all the things I'll do,  
And the great big time I'll have.

There on the horizon I see one appear,  
Magically heading toward me.  
At first so far off and then so near,  
That ship is all I can see.

I think that ship must be laden with  
treasure,  
And I dream of spending it to bring me  
pleasure,

When all of a sudden I spy her name—  
It must be my own, it's exactly the same.  
So now I know she's intended for me.  
I jump up and yell, "There's going to be a  
spree!"

I'll take all the gold in that great big ship  
And go around the world on the longest  
trip.

I'll buy the snappiest roadster in town,  
And ride to my heart's content.  
I'll buy an airplane that will never come  
down,

And I'll fly till my money is spent.  
I'll build me a mansion on the hill over  
there,

And I'll have it all furnished and fixed for  
fair,

Everything shall be as fine as frog hair,  
And then I'll be as happy as a millionaire.  
But then as I dreamed I put out my hand.  
I feel myself startled as by the first sounds  
of a band

I have been dreaming of happiness, but  
there's something I forgot,  
I suddenly realize I could not be happy  
with my lot.

For in that great mansion something was  
vague,

It haunted my heart just like a plague,  
And as I sat dreaming something went snap.  
I heard a whisper say, wake up from your  
nap.

Don't you know happiness never is found,  
Even though you have a mansion and a  
square mile of ground,  
All laid out with trees and fountains and  
shrub,  
And the cupboards therein stacked full of  
grub?

There is one essential you have forgot  
To include in the making of your happy lot.  
And that is there must be a maiden fair,  
With lovely big eyes and curly hair,  
To help you spend the rest of your life.  
So take a girl and make her your wife;  
Stick together through thick and thin—  
You'll find it won't matter if your ship  
never comes in.

For in a friendship where there's love,  
Through hell below and heaven above,  
The bonds of friendship cannot sever—  
No, never; no, never; no, never!

GEORGE ALGAR, Local No. 58, Detroit, Mich.

## Mathematics

When wages are reduced to a common fraction, subtraction of sales inevitably must take place; multiplication of the depression will then be the reaction and additional miseries will be staring us in the face! Division has dividend for those on the know, that two plus two equals four; that the consumers' dough will keep things on the go, for buyer plus funds equals business galore!

ABE GLICK,

L. U. No. 3, New York, N. Y.

## Handy Hickey

Here's a limerick on the hickey,  
And my helper, his name was Micky;  
When I turned my back  
He painted it black;  
So I would get my hands all sticky.

He then disappeared for the rest of the day,  
To watch the scenery at the Y. W. C. A.

W. H. HENDRICK,

L. U. No. 7.

## Only a Lineman

If the road is rough and the job is tough,  
Call a lineman.  
If it's rain or slush and the job's marked  
rush,

Call a lineman.

On the ground or in the air,  
On a tower, pole or anywhere  
Treat him right and he'll be there—  
That's a lineman.

For pulling guys or alibis,  
Get a lineman.

In snow or ice, or if the day is nice,

It's a lineman.

Give them three square meals a day,  
And a living rate of pay,  
They'll do anything you say—

Any lineman.

When the power is off, trouble aloft,  
Call a lineman.

When the blizzard blows, or it rains or snows,  
Get a lineman.

Just put a good man in the lead,  
Get the materials he may need,  
Watch that boy then show you speed.  
He's just a lineman.

No tower's too high, the limit's the sky,  
If he's a lineman.

He'll share his lot, as he works it hot,  
Cause he's a lineman.

He'll always help his fellow man,  
Share his lunch or tobacco can,  
If you're down, do what he can—  
Any lineman.

If you're a home guard, or on a traveling  
card,

If you're a lineman

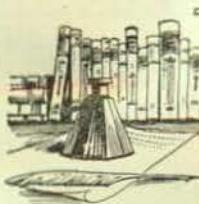
At a journeyman rate and your dues are  
straight,

Then you're a lineman.

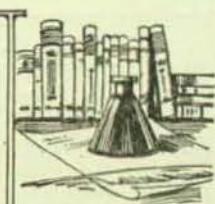
If the pay is right, then all is well,  
If the hours are eight and the feed is swell,  
Then he'll follow the boss through hell,  
Because he's a lineman.

DUKE,

L. U. No. 245.



# CORRESPONDENCE



## L. U. NO. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO.

Editor:

There is an old saying that "misery likes company"; also, it is well known that any plan or program must be advertised in order to acquaint the people with it.

After reading anonymous letters that are evidently being distributed throughout the Brotherhood, as well as reading the article, "Throws Barb into Thoughtless Kickers," which appeared in the January issue of the WORKER, it is evident that in New York City there are two programs—one sponsored by wreckers, the other sponsored by constructors.

In our own village we have a much similar situation. For the past couple of years we have had both a construction and a wrecking crew working. The construction crew is composed of fair and humane minded employers co-operating with the able and far-sighted local and International Officers. The wrecking crew, as usual, is made up of those in whom this local once placed every trust and confidence, and who have been thrown out for violation of trust and confidence and who are now, and have been for some time, promoting a scab organization in co-operation with non-union employers and other larger and more powerful interests who are seeking to destroy the improved and humane conditions that have been established by this local union in co-operation with as fair and as sensible minded a group of employers as can be found anywhere.

The splendid system of benefits, wage scale and working conditions outlined by Brother Baccaglini in his article have been established in this city, and our officers—local and International—have been subjected to the same cowardly attacks as have been heaped upon those who helped establish similar conditions in New York City and other places. It has been a battle of right against wrong and, as usual, right prevails; and "misery," as quoted in the old saying, can only properly be used in these two instances as the "misery" incidental to greed and envy and the lack of being able to satisfy personal, selfish desires on the part of those who would rather destroy than build.

JAMES F. CASEY.

## L. U. NO. 7, SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

Editor:

Well, we have started on a new year, but it doesn't seem to be starting any better than the year of 1931, for I was noticing a picture in the January JOURNAL by Goody, showing him showing the door to old 1931 and letting young 1932 come in, but I noticed he only showed one hand. He should have examined the other one, for I am sure, he must have had an axe in it. I have never seen so much chopping of wages in the different lines of trade as I have seen in the first 26 days of this year, so it doesn't speak very well of the rest of it.

We were surprised to see one of our Springfield papers saying that after the first of the year all wages in the building trades would be cut from three to two dollars per day. All tradesmen receiving \$13 a day would be cut to \$10 and those receiving \$10 would be cut to \$8 a day, and some of our Broth-

## READ

- St. Louis comments on New York, parallel situation, by L. U. No. 1.
- Answering Editor Shaw, by L. U. No. 11.
- Land, bankers and a world league, by L. U. No. 226.
- Lincoln, Nebr., comes back, by L. U. No. 265.
- View of the system, by L. U. No. 292.
- Eight cents an hour in Louisiana, by L. U. No. 329.
- War and economic recovery, by L. U. No. 86.
- Bachie is back again, by L. U. No. 211.
- Taxes, schools and fair-play, by L. U. No. 508.
- Good stuff in union, by L. U. No. 11.
- Spider wisdom, the depression, and mechanized production, by L. U. No. 125.
- Unemployment insurance, by L. U. No. 409.
- One public works job, by L. U. No. 53.
- Informing, constructive, encouraging letters from a widespread area. The boys are not weakening. Yet they know how bad the panic is.

ers had our business manager dizzy, calling him up all hours of the day and night, asking him if it was so, but he politely told them he would let them know if anything like that was going to happen.

Our agreement does not expire until the first of May, so we have plenty of time to think matters over and I hope by that time that most of the boys will be working again.

Now is the time when the tradesmen have it on the factory and office help, who have no agreement signed with their employers, for they are politely told that starting the first week of this month your salary will be this much and no come back; either take it or leave it, and there is plenty of that going on today, some of the factories paying as low as three dollars a day and working three days a week. We will have to christen the year 1932 as the year of the axe.

I see by the papers where one of our nearby cities has not paid its employees for four weeks, not knowing when they will be paid, and the banks holding out for 6 per cent on the loan to the cities it will take so much longer for the cities to get on their feet again. We have been lucky in having Springfield on a good financial basis. Quite a few of our Brothers are working for the city in the electrical line.

And they tell us all we have to do is to accept a 20 per cent cut and business will start going on the upgrade! We know that working conditions will never be the same except in large cities where there is always a large amount of new building and alterations every year.

Our greatest problem today is taking care of the Brothers who are not able to pay their dues and are in need of help, but our executive board seems to have the situation well in hand and I don't think there is any member that can say he has appealed to the board and has not been taken care of.

E. MULLARKEY.

## L. U. NO. 8, TOLEDO, OHIO

Editor:

Here we are in February, 1932, and conditions remain practically unchanged in this city. Three of the closed banks paid off at 10 to 15 per cent just before Christmas and one bank reorganized and reopened and paid 30 per cent. The Toledo Trust Company, which is the largest bank here, weathered the storm and is handling the greater portion of the banking business. They have recently enlarged their quarters at the two downtown offices.

It is estimated that nearly one-sixth of the population here is "on the city" for food and shelter. The cost of unemployment relief is higher than it has been in the history of the city.

It has been said that living costs are down to pre-war levels. We must admit that prices of many articles and commodities are down, but what about public utilities? They are still charging those high prices for gas, electric light, telephone and street car service.

Our own working conditions are about the same. Only a few Brothers working at present and nothing much in sight for the near future. But we still have the old fighting spirit and from reading last month's JOURNAL I gather that the spirit is predominant throughout the various locals of the Brotherhood. If we all stick together with that "never say die" attitude, we are bound to win in the end.

And to some Brothers who seem to have forgotten, we still meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at the same old place, same time.

HARRY B. VAN FLEET.

## L. U. NO. 11, ALBANY, TROY AND SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

Editor:

The January issue of The Review of Reviews contains an article by its editor, Albert Shaw, entitled, "Can Labor Unions Hold Their Own?" The article is a short one, not over 300 words, and at first sight might seem unimportant and beneath the notice of unionists, but when you stop and consider the thousands who will read the statements set forth, it becomes important. Allow me to quote from the article in question, "Trade unionism should recognize the fact that it will be on trial this year, not merely for the approval or disapproval of the public opinion that rules the country, but for its hold upon its members, and its acceptance by employers and consumers. Most of the trouble in the building business has been due to the arrogance and tyranny of the unions, with their inordinate wage scales, their short hours, and their suppression of those energetic me-

chanics who would like to give a good day's work in return for high rates of pay."

Mr. Shaw continues and after placing the railroad brotherhoods in a poor light upon the subject of wage reduction, ends his article with this: "But sooner or later employers thus treated will find their way into the competitive labor market, and hire men on free contract for what their services are worth under prevailing economic conditions. Pendulums will swing both ways."

Brothers, I disagree with Mr. Shaw when he states that unionism will be on trial this year. Unionism has been on trial since its inception and will be for many years to come. Unionism will be on trial until the public has been taught that unionism is as necessary to the economic plan as capital.

Tyranny and arrogance are degrading appellations that are often used to describe labor unions, but are seldom applied to other organizations in the business world. An event that happened in Albany during the past year comes to mind at this point. All the banks lowered their interest rate upon savings accounts, from 4½ per cent to 4 per cent. Note that I state "all." The move was a concerted one; the respective banks published announcements in the local press, and the reduced rate took effect simultaneously. Was this an act of unionism or was it coincidence? Was it collective action, upon the part of the bankers, or did it just happen? There are some, no doubt, who believe the latter but I lean very strongly towards the former theory. Among the many banks, there may have been some who wanted to retain the higher rate, but realized that if any one or two of the group took that stand the remainder would lose depositors by the thousands. What would have happened to any rebel who played the "lone wolf"? Well, you may rest assured that bankers have their own methods of forcing co-operation among their membership and any member proving recalcitrant would be dealt with summarily and whipped back in line. The bankers, facing a loss upon some of their investments, simply passed that loss along to the public. Did the public call the banking group tyrants or otherwise vilify? No. They accepted the loss of one-half per cent upon their savings and generally looked upon the bankers' action as a good business move. Now may I be permitted to ask a pertinent question? Why is it that when labor organizes and endeavors to gain betterments for its members it is rapped down and accused of tyranny and arrogance? Did the Creator of all things cast a banker in a different mould from that of an artisan? Was it intended that one should have the right of organization and the other be denied that right? I can not force myself to believe that such a gross injustice was ever intended, but this I do believe: that labor has, by reason of economic pressure, been the "under dog" for so many years that the public has been deluded into thinking that that is its proper place in the world. Well, is it not about time that labor, by word and action, disillusioned the public? Mr. Shaw says: "Pendulums will swing both ways." Very true. The pendulum has described a great arc, away from labor and the unionist; now let us see it swing back. If it follows its natural law and is not retarded by outside forces it will swing as far in one direction as the other. It is the bounden duty of every union man to so carry himself that no one can say, "You are preventing the natural swing of the pendulum."

Bear with me once again, you members of a labor organization. Does the public

denounce the medical man for asking a large fee for a brief consultation? No, the physician is a member of an honored profession and no one thinks of calling him a tyrant. Well, then, neither is the mechanician or laborer. One is just as human as the other and wants as much consideration. All are prompted by the same primitive urge, to survive, and during such survival to reap as many benefits as possible for himself and his loved ones.

One way in which labor can obtain the betterments sought is by organizing and organizing solidly. No half-way measures will suffice to bring about the desired end. If other groups of men, states and countries can organize and bring into being powerful associations, nations and empires, then labor can and should do likewise. When labor reaches this point and the public, by fair means, is made to realize the fact that labor constitutes a vast majority and is just as vital to the economic welfare of the world as capital; then, and not until then, will labor gain and enjoy the benefits that are in justice due it.

Mr. Shaw points to the shorter hours as one of unionism's faults. Is it so grievous a fault for men and women to work shorter hours and thereby afford employment to others, in need and unemployed? If that fault were more prevalent there would be less want and suffering in the ranks of labor today. I want to tell Mr. Shaw that he will see a still greater reduction in the working hours. President Green, of the American Federation of Labor, has estimated that if a 35-hour workweek was to be adopted there would be work for all industrial workers. Furthermore a well-known economist, Mr. C. M. Wright, has stated that the "only visible road out of permanent unemployment is by the shorter workday and week." Perhaps Mr. Shaw would like to see labor return to the time when the workday began at 7 and as early as 6 a. m., and continued till 7 at night. If such was to happen the country would be so glutted with people out of employment that chaos and perhaps anarchy would result.

There may be some isolated cases of labor receiving inordinate wages, but upon the whole it will be found that the pay of the average union mechanic is commensurate for services rendered. The old rule, "all that the traffic will bear," is no longer considered good form among labor unions.

As for unions suppressing energetic mechanics, Mr. Shaw will find, if he takes the trouble to investigate, that all union men are cautioned by their business managers to give the best they have and to work for the interest of their employers. That does not mean that the mechanic is expected to make of himself an automaton. It does mean, though, a good day's work for a good day's pay.

I agree with the assertion that employers when treated unfairly will seek labor in the open competitive market for as low a wage as possible, and that action is one which unionism desires to make unnecessary by dealing with the employers openly, with modern business methods, with equity and by providing better labor than can be obtained in the open market.

Labor unions may or may not be on trial this year for their hold upon their members, as the case may be, but if the membership held together during good times there are more and better reasons why they should stick to the ship during the present.

The reader may gather the impression that I am trying to "break lances" with Mr. Shaw, but such is not the case. What I am endeavoring to do is to point out to

every union man the necessity of solidarity and the need of enlightening the public as to what real unionism means to its members.

It is with regret and sorrow that I have to report the death of Brother E. Gold. Death is not a pleasant subject. It casts a spell of gloom in its wake, not only upon the bereaved family but also upon those who knew and worked with the departed member. I hope that I will not be called upon to note the passing of any more of our local union for a long time to come. At this point I want to admonish the members in respect to their insurance. Our business manager has spoken at length upon this subject but a word or two more will do no harm. It is simply this: Keep up your insurance. Do not let it lapse.

Brother D. Maguire has removed to his home town of Rutland, Vt., afflicted with a serious illness and does not expect to return to our midst. We wish Brother Maguire a speedy recovery to health and, if possible, a return to L. U. No. 11. His good nature and the ability to take a practical joke endeared him to the membership of old Local No. 696.

Labor conditions are not of the best in the jurisdiction of L. U. No. 11, as far as employment is concerned, all jobs being well taken care of and a lot of men waiting to tackle any that may appear in the future.

One word more in conclusion to the Brotherhood. Remember that during such times as the present, when we are striving to make ends meet, and are prone to make mountains out of mole hills; that the opponents of unionism attempt to put across their best blows and in various ways seek to undermine the cause of unionism. Hold tight and soon we will be off the rough road and upon the concrete pavement once again, ready to step on the gas.

Yours for the I. B. E. W.

C. A. ROBERTS.

#### **L. U. NO. 22, OMAHA, NEBR.**

Editor:

I notice there is nothing but praise for the I. O. representatives from the letters of press secretaries in whose locality they have been. We pay their salaries and wish there were more of them, but a business manager, ah, that's different. He may represent the I. O. but our treasurer writes out checks for his salary. We are his employers. That's where his bread and butter comes from; besides, there will be another election. If he did not please we will pick another from our ranks. It doesn't seem to matter whether he has had any special training or aptitude for the job. He doesn't have to pass any examinations as to his qualifications. Just a majority vote. Result: Another student business agent. I don't know why a local has to have a vote as to who the business manager for that particular local shall be or why he has to be a member of that local or even the I. B. E. W.

I am young yet so perhaps I'll live long enough to see the time when the I. O. will choose, hire, fire and pay all electrical workers' business managers. In that case there would be no need for the other offices from the president on down. No meeting, no hall rent to pay, no stock in labor temples to buy and no local dues. Perhaps an executive board or an advisory board could be elected at a meeting once a year, but with a real manager even that would not be necessary. The dues to the I. O. would be more—perhaps \$30 a month—but offer me a job for 30 days at \$10 a day pay and see how quickly I take you up.

As to unemployment relief and drumming up work, it has not been much of a success.

Those who have been out soliciting work find it a tough job. Some results were obtained by working with the Omaha committee for relief of unemployment. Possibly the best results affecting the electrical worker were due to the intensive advertising and selling campaign by the Nebraska Power and Light Company on water heaters, ranges and electric refrigerators.

The vocational school is again in full swing. Brothers Gus Lawson and Harvey Walker are instructors again this year. The attendance this year is even better than last, both instructors having their full quota of students. One of the young fellows who has been attending classes regularly has had his wages raised and has been promised steady work and to top it off his girl said "yes." Now they are married.

International Representative C. L. Robbins has been working out in this district but I understand we are to lose him soon. I wonder if our President Broach did not have him in mind when he said, "Men are so few." You Brothers who have met him will agree that he is a man of exceptional ability. A man of his type is what I had in mind when I wrote the fore part of this letter. May his tribe increase.

JOE BERAN.

#### L. U. NO. 28, BALTIMORE, MD.

Editor:

All I read in the newspapers, including the union labor paper, is unemployment and how to cure it. Business men, bankers, lawyers, and labor delegates are appointed on committees to see what can be done, and so far as I can see or read is 12-foot signs on signboards, viz.: "Help the unemployed; give until it hurts." And at the bottom it has the signatures of President Hoover's committee. Well, I can't say much about the poor rich, because since I have only \$8 in savings, I am keeping it in the sugar bowl instead of a safe deposit box. Although I am a Democrat, as is customary with us southern gentlemen, I can speak only in the highest terms of Governor Pinchot, whose picture was in the January JOURNAL. I voted for him while a resident of his state of Pennsylvania.

Tom Cramer, of L. U. No. 26, your letter was o. k. I have seen the same things occur in my time. Now I want to introduce to the L. B. E. W., internationally, our hard working unemployment committee, who, I am sure, will be glad to give you the benefit of their experience of how to keep your men in a pleasant mood, and keep the wrinkles out of your chest. First, Brother Robert Forrest, chairman; Brother Albert Gettman, secretary; Brother Stan Prather, treasurer; Brother George Repp and Brother Hoffman, the chief investigators.

Local No. 28 is now trying to make some wage adjustments for a new agreement with our contractors. I only hope they are successful in pleasing both parties concerned.

Brother Bieretz, the assistant to President Broach, paid us a visit home lately. Say, Ed.; no disrespect, but I believe I saw a hair growing out on the top. Anyway it costs more for a massage than a haircut.

"Clark of Harrisburg," I agree with you so far as publishing the directory monthly, because one can find a JOURNAL about the house when the directory is lost, but I am not in favor of shorter letters, because it may be the cause of more unemployment in our International.

Well, I won't bother you further, only to say that Baltimore is known for its good salt water oysters in the winter, and plenty crabs and beer in summer. Perhaps we will in some future time be able to invite some outside men in to work, so here goes.

J. PARKS.

#### L. U. NO. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO.

Editor:

After a few months of silence, Local No. 53 feels the urge to write. The winter in Kansas City has been real mild, which, as everyone wants to remark, was a great blessing to the poor. It seems they are always trying to figure out that the elements or the gods are looking after the poor with special weather. Now while Kansas City is enjoying nice weather a lot of other cities have had their usual cold winter and, of course, the suffering that goes with such a winter. But, I suppose, you don't hear of these special blessings in those cities; they have other blessings no doubt.

The new Reconstruction Finance Corporation is in effect now and Brother Wes Ira hopes it will let him have the money to buy that farm down in Whipo County, Mo. Wes has been retiring for the last 20 years to go on the farm, and at last it looks like his dream has come true. No doubt the R. F. C. will let him have the money for such a noble experiment. It was organized for the exact purpose of helping out workers who wish to better themselves—Oh, yeah!

The municipal job is about complete and

that will slow down employment here, as it kept quite a few men busy all fall and winter. This million and a half improvement in Kansas City, Kans., municipal water and light plant, was installed out of the earnings of the plant—something unheard of in this day of high finance. Usually in a case where the earnings pile up like that they would use it for dividends and new bonds would be floated for the improvements; and the future generations could pay and pay and pay. This improvement was installed entirely by union labor, the electrical work being installed by Kelso-Wagner, of Dayton, Ohio, who employed the members of Local No. 124 and Local No. 53; the skipper on the job was Bob Brown, of Dayton Local No. 82, and the pusher was Everett Smith, of Local No. 124 and the country at large.

The new postoffice is going up here and will be able to absorb some of the boys who are now loafing; a new convention hall and civic center are in the offing; so old K. C. is carrying on.

T. McGURN.

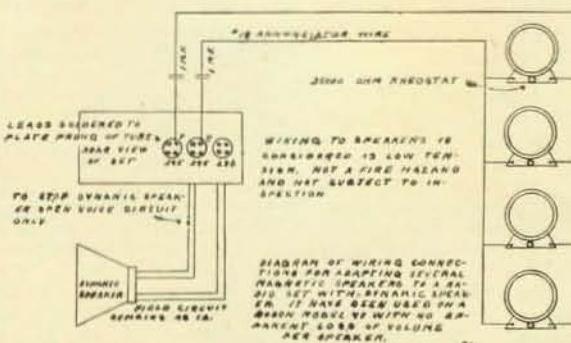
No man is good enough to govern another man without that man's consent.—  
Abraham Lincoln.

## A NEGLECTED FIELD OF WORK

By a TRADE INSTRUCTOR

Most new schools and halls are having radio and public address systems installed as we all know. Public address systems being quite expensive are for that reason being confined to new buildings only.

Most schools, clubs, hotels and private houses have a seven or nine-tube radio set with built-in dynamic speaker. It is the writer's experience that the dynamic speaker can be turned off and the set made to operate a number of magnetic



speakers (in multiple) at the same time. Each speaker can be turned on or its volume adjusted by a rheostat. Personally the writer had 17 speakers working perfectly, all at one time, from a Model 48 Bosch. Up to about 30 can be operated from a Majestic. The speakers used were Bosch table models valued at about \$3.50 each.

Also by the addition of a pick up microphone to this set the same becomes a very good substitute for public address system.

The writer has the following places in mind where magnetic speakers can be used to advantage by using the above arrangement.

1. In private homes one or more bedrooms should have a magnetic speaker connection for the convenience of a shut-in or a sick person. The dynamic speaker of the home radio set may be turned off if necessary.

2. Magnetic speakers placed in various places around hotel lobbies, rest rooms, etc., are preferable to a centrally located dynamic speaker with its loud volume catering to one group.

3. Small hotels, clubs, Y. M. C. A., etc., should have speakers either plugged in or built in; the radio set being behind the clerk's desk.

4. Schools, if the rooms are not too large, approximately 25 x 30 feet. Radio set in this case in the principal's office.

The low cost for installing these speakers, and the successful use of same, will doubtless be a surprise to many hotel owners and others if suggested by our members. In buildings already built this work is neglected, the owners thinking of course that an expensive public address system is the only thing that can be obtained.

**L. U. NO. 65, BUTTE, MONT.**

Editor:

At the last regular meeting of this local union the Montana state law regulating electrical construction was taken up and efforts are being made to have an inspector appointed with authority to compel enforcement of the statute. In order that every member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in this state may know what the law is, Local Union 65 suggests that each local union in Montana secure a copy from the proper state authority, and familiarize itself with it.

CLEM BURKARD,  
Recording Secretary.

**L. U. NO. 86, ROCHESTER, N. Y.****Why the Disarmament Conference Must Not Fail**

Editor:

As this is being written (January 14) preparations are being made for the World Disarmament Conference in Geneva, beginning February 2.

If this conference fails the present economic collapse will be accelerated enormously because our civilization depends upon international confidence and that would finally be destroyed.

War as a means of settling disputes or in gaining new territory is a relic of barbarous time and should be outlawed by all people who call themselves civilized and Christians. The people of the civilized world have now reached the state of mind where they can better realize that war is entirely unnecessary and that "patriotism" is nothing more than a narrow-minded hatred of other people.

The masses do not want war but are forced into it by unscrupulous governments controlled by political and capitalistic monarchs. Moreover, armaments are entirely unnecessary because no conceivable quarrel could arise with another nation which could not be settled more effectively and economically by peaceful methods than by mass murder on the battlefield. The idea that a nation must go to war in defense of its "honor" is as fallacious and dangerous as the ancient concept that an individual must fight a duel in defense of his "honor." Controversies over economic and financial interests cannot be settled by a resort to arms.

There are today 58 nations which have sworn never to use war as an instrument of international policy or to seek a settlement of international disputes otherwise than by pacific means. The United States is not one of these 58 nations but there are thousands of men and women in this country today who have pledged themselves not to support any future wars in which this country may be involved.

Prosperity and progress have already been disastrously arrested as the result of war. The only foundation upon which they could be rebuilt is upon the basis of peace and confidence. The success of the Geneva conference would relay that basis. Its failure would destroy the last remnant of security.

The reduction of armaments upon which the world now spends \$4,500,000,000 each year would reduce taxation, increase purchasing power and raise the standard of living by a considerable amount.

The United States alone is spending about 700 millions annually on the current expense of the army and navy. That is to say that our insurance policy of so-called protection is costing us \$7,000,000,000 every decade. Is there an intelligent person who would maintain that, if we disarm, our property to the value of \$7,000,000,000 would be destroyed every 10 years? Money expended for armaments is not only being poured into a bot-

tomless pit, but every dollar spent in this way actually increases our peril.

Seven billion dollars every decade would make available a national revolving fund for a system of unemployment and other forms of social insurance. This amount if used as a subsidy for a national housing scheme would wipe out all the slums of the land. With its equivalent an educational institution costing a million dollars could be erected in 700 communities every year, or 7,000 within a decade.

The next war—if we must have one—will involve horrors unimaginable even by those who endured the last. It would be a war of gas and poison and germs. The destruction will be swift and universal. Moreover, the deadliest destruction wrought by modern war is not upon the battlefield but dislocation of the world's system of production and distribution. In the event of another great war, more people will die of starvation, malnutrition and disease than will be killed on the field of battle.

The race for armaments is a foolish policy. We are told that if a nation is sufficiently well prepared that no other nation will dare attack it. The obvious fallacy of this argument is that only one nation in the world would thus be safe. Students along those lines now recognize that the race of armaments in Europe prior to 1914 was a primary cause of the World War. Armaments are a cause as well as a result of war.

Already the rumblings of war are being heard. Suspicions are being stirred up of other governments—Japan and Russia in particular at the moment. In the "movies" war is being glorified, war stories are being presented over the radio, military leaders are going about the country delivering inflammatory addresses. The press is enlisted and is publishing articles designed to arouse passions. Also, a fact that seems significant is that in the past two years very little knowledge of new war machinery is being made public.

It is now clearly up to every one of us to fight for security, for Christian principle and for common sense. Millions who answered the call in 1914-18 know now what manner of rewards it brought—for thousands the World War is not yet over. The call for peace is just as urgent and demands as much courage and determination—if not more. It is a call sent out to the plain man and woman, the masses, let us outlaw war, let us get it out of our minds, let us strive for peace, let us lead the larger nations of the world in disarmament, the lesser nations only lack a leader, and let us constantly remind the members of the Geneva conference that we have voices and votes.

CARLETON E. MEADE.

**L. U. NO. 90, NEW HAVEN, CONN.**

Editor:

Most of us have been taught that the virtues of faith, hope and charity are necessary for eternal salvation and that the greatest of these is charity. If charity is so essential to eternal salvation it is certainly essential to the salvation of our organization.

In discussing this divine virtue it is well to know what kind of charity we need most. I do not have in mind the type which prompts us to distribute money, food and clothing to the needy nor to contribute to philanthropic agencies, but rather the type which prompts us to look upon our fellow members with the feeling of brotherhood which most of us realize is the backbone of our organization.

A prominent philosopher once remarked that there was more charity in a cheery "Good morning" given with good will than

in the donation of a goodly sum of money as the gesture of an unkind nature hiding its unkindness.

It is not alone necessary for us to know what is essential to the success of our Brotherhood, but is also well for us to know how to apply our knowledge. For example: if in the course of a debate on any subject our opinion is radically different from that of a fellow member it is far from charitable for us to immediately stamp that member as an imbecile, an illegitimate child or any one of a hundred unpopular classes of human being, simply because his views do not coincide with ours.

This sort of procedure often results in questions being decided rather by the volume of lung power of a speaker than by calm, cool reasoning. The knowledge also that such a policy is pursued time and time again often prevents some of our more timid Brothers from expressing their views and thus loses to us valuable ideas and information.

Another application of this much discussed virtue, and one which might well be practiced in these hard times is the lending of every effort on the part of the employed Brothers to create jobs for those out of work, rather than to scheme to lengthen their own time on a job. Fairness alone should prompt such action, and a lot of hardships would be spared our unemployed members. Charity of this sort would surely be more acceptable to them than any donation we could give.

As predicted in a previous letter, John W. Murphy, labor's candidate for mayor, was elected by the greatest majority ever given any mayor in the history of New Haven. We all join in wishing him success in his well-deserved office and promise him our hearty co-operation.

Brother John Lyke was the recipient of a novel Christmas present this year when presented with a baby boy on Christmas morning. Congratulations, John, and let us hope he never takes up the electrical business.

JOHN J. McCURRY.

**L. U. NO. 113, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.**

Editor:

Local No. 113 had their annual Christmas tree party the night of the 21st. Some gay time, both for the kiddies and the grown-ups. Santa was there with whiskers an' everything. The little tots said pieces and sang songs for the ol' gent and most of the older folk said thanks. Then the presents for all were passed out and presently everybody was munching pop-corn and candy and showing their gifts from Santa. Mrs. Mackey and her toy drum raised quite a hulla-ba-loo while Mrs. Addison's monkey on a string and Stan's set of building blocks topped off the ridic.

We're like a bunch of kids on vacation from school. No labor college or Federated Trades this week, no school at Sub A this week or last, only one local and one Electrical Brotherhood meeting during the yuletide. Sure will be hard to settle down to three or four nights a week again. All fall there have not been enough nights in the week to take care of the engagements. Had to double up sometimes.

In these times when so many of the bosses would like to drop scales and forget working rules, the local and committee work are doubly important. If this depression does not teach the all-important lesson of tightening up the organization to every union in America then experience is not a good teacher, after all.

Six months ago we spoke of our tri-city conference and agreement, and the difficulty of getting Brothers from the other two cities to report and obtain permits. It has happened again. Only carelessness, to be sure. But that after two warnings. Perhaps if we required a traveler to do so much as hang a fixture anywhere in our jurisdiction, there wouldn't be so much forgetfulness and carelessness. Carelessness in union obligations would rather indicate carelessness on the job. Anyhow there is another meeting this month and the same committee is serving. "Hot time in the old town tonight."

So far only the plumbers and steamfitters and the painters have taken wage cuts here. Among the other crafts there is a more scrappy attitude, which perhaps has had a little something to do with holding up the present scales.

Well, we've turned the corner for spring at last. Hope my credit with the coal company lasts till it (spring) gets here. Rather hoped prosperity would be around that corner but can't even see his skid tracks.

Oh, oh, here's that radio soprano again, time to hit the feathers, no puns.

O. F. WILLIS.

#### L. U. NO. 117, ELGIN, ILL.

**Editor:**

The old saying that no news is good news might be partly applied to Local No. 117 for it has been some time since the last letter appeared, however, nothing of particular interest has happened since that time. Conditions here are perhaps no better or worse than in hundreds of other cities of similar or larger population, and the morale of our members is excellent in spite of the depression.

Acting on the advice of President Broach we meet only once each month at half the former rent. It is unusual if adjournment is not reached after an hour's session and I recall two meetings when all the necessary business was transacted in 15 minutes. Our executive board is very proficient and their recommendations and decisions are invariably promptly approved. President Ben Benson is serving his third term and has proved to be one of the best men who have presided over the destinies of our organization. He is ably assisted by F. J. Schumacher, financial secretary; R. W. Pinkerton, recording secretary, and G. W. Hilton, treasurer, all of whom have been re-elected several times. The city electrical commission, which examines, licenses and governs all electrical contractors, has still representatives from Local No. 117, namely, A. R. Copley, city electrician, and the writer.

About two months ago several members of Aurora Local No. 461 visited us and asked our co-operation in forming a society for the study of new electrical devices and equipment. This was readily granted and as a result we now have the Electrical Maintenance Society and they meet at Aurora once each month. Unfavorable weather conditions have prevailed both meeting nights but 13 members of our city rode 48 miles in a driving rain to the last session and felt fully compensated after their inspection of the Aurora Telephone Exchange, a dial phone equipment furnished by the Western Electric Company. It was a pleasant two hours' visit; the 40 members were divided into two squads and each squad had an expert (D. M. Greenwalt and E. R. Smith) to explain every detail of the plant and also answer any questions. The Exchange building and all equipment, electrical and otherwise, is the last word for

cleanliness, good workmanship, and modern equipment. (An Elgin man was the general contractor.)

Our near future meetings call for a second lecture by an expert of the General Electric Company on this subject, "The commercial use of vacuum tubes in modern electrical equipment." Following this will be three lectures by a representative of the Crocker Wheeler Company on "A. C. Control." The monthly dues of the society are 25 cents, the membership is confined to I. B. E. W. card men but no meetings are held in the union's hall; a different chairman is selected for each meeting and no refreshments are served; a desire for technical and practical knowledge is the object in view.

There is no doubt in the minds of our and other labor leaders that all trades at present are greatly overpopulated and all signs seem to indicate the survival of the fittest now and when this depression is over. This being an accepted fact the society is surely on the right track, for in no other trade is a little knowledge so dangerous or worthless as in the electrical game.

There are two members of Local No. 117 who are establishing a record for total years of membership in one local, also total years of continuous service with one employer. The writer has been a member of Local No. 117 for 31 years and will have completed 26 years as electrician for the Elgin National Watch Company on February 19, 1932. Brother George W. Hilton, card No. 185821, has been a member since 1908 and has been with the same company since 1918. During this time all the electrical maintenance and construction in this the largest watch factory in America, has been done by members of the I. B. E. W. In addition to the factory the company has its own observatory located three blocks east on a hillside and is also serviced by these two men. A large amount of money has been spent to make this observatory one of the best in the United States and the services of Prof. Frank D. Urie, who is in charge, have been requested and tendered several times to astronomical societies to observe and time the eclipse of the sun.

The general equipment consists of transit, recording chronographs, personal equation machine, four famous Rieffel clocks mounted on cement piers which are not connected in any way with any part of the building, relays and sounders and innumerable necessary electrical devices. Two of the clocks register standard or mean time and the other two sidereal or star time. Standard time is brought to the factory through underground cables and distributed to the many departments by sounders or tickers. The 59th second of every minute is dropped for reference point. The standard time which is correct to within .02 of a second is also sent to Chicago and is broadcast by radio station WJJD hourly. In connection with and located at the observatory there is a short wave experimental radio station W9XAM which transmits standard time at 8, 9 and 10 a.m., 12 noon, 2, 4 and 10 p.m. daily on a frequency of 4795 Kc. (62.56 meters) and time signals from this set have been received all over the United States and at points in South America, Europe, Africa, New Zealand and Australia. This short wave transmitter was installed about four years ago; the source of power for the plate circuit of the vacuum tubes is furnished by a 2,000-volt one and one-half-ampere direct current motor-generator set, the A. C. end of which operates from our own three-phase 220-volt generators.

If any of the Brothers are interested in

how time is taken from the stars every clear night and the important star's time transferred electrically onto the chronograph chart in ink simultaneous with the beat of the four Rieffel clocks to establish any error, the writer will be glad to take this up at some future time.

A. B. ADAMS.

#### L. U. NO. 125, PORTLAND, OREG.

**Editor:**

Recently the "oldest son" burst forth in a tuneful bit of opera, and this was the burden of his song:

"Teeny, weeny 'pider went up the water 'pout;  
Rain came down and washed the 'pider out;  
Sun came out and dried up all the rain;  
Teeny, weeny 'pider went up the 'pout again."

Explaining the action, or movement, of the composition, as the best radio announcers do, I would say that this going "up the spout" is not to be understood in its generally accepted figurative interpretation, but in its literal meaning instead. The spider had evidently set up housekeeping and gone into business in that particular location, as spiders have a habit of doing. And sad but true, came then the washout. A sort of depression, as it were, with embellishments. Heavy music. "Aren't we all?" However, without dwelling over long on the tragic motif (for this, evidently, isn't grand opera), the almost despaired of sun of prosperity emerges from around the mystical corner, and dries up all the rain. Then with a sprightly movement swinging into a crashing crescendo the grand finale goes "Up the 'pout again."

Seems a bit whimsical, doesn't it, Mr. Editor? And yet it struck me quite forcibly. After the depression—what? I sometimes find relief from the monotony of an uneventful shift as an operator in planning what I will do when I get home (There isn't any rule against that—yet). Sometimes I have the entire 16 hours off shift cross indexed and catalogued when I leave the station. (Of course, the fact that my first wife generally has other plans, and I seldom go through with a program as outlined, doesn't alter the fact that I've been able to make the time pass more quickly by deciding what I will do in and when I am my own boss.) And so we may well ease the stress of these troublous times by looking toward the future a little. There still remains the apparent fact of applied physics, that a pendulum will swing back when forced to one side, and the farther the displacement the farther the reverse swing. So we know that the depression must end, sometime. And what are we going to do when it does?

We have had some little discussion of the "mechanization of industry," and we agreed, Mr. Editor, that the employer should not, in justice, be allowed to reap the entire benefit of the displacement of men by machines. We prophesied that the shorter workday and week must be put into effect. But while we hesitated and pondered on how it was to be done, along came Old Man Depression and did it for us. (Maybe he is an angel in disguise—pretty well disguised.) That is one thing which we must hold on to as we go "up the 'pout again." When the pendulum begins its backward swing, we must, and I mean must, standardize and firmly establish the shorter working week, and the six-hour day, too, if possible. History of the labor movement shows that shortened hours have always

been accomplished at the sacrifice of earning power at first, the wage structure being brought up gradually, as it was possible to advance it. And that should be the cornerstone upon which reconstruction is founded following this present crisis. The entire force of organized labor should be directed toward the increasing of wages, with the shorter working time as a basis, and in opposition to any plan which may (and will) be advanced toward returning to the longer hours of work at a lowered wage. If labor can hold to the shorter week, and raise the wage structure to where we can make a living in accordance with American standards, this period of suffering will not have been in vain.

That is the lesson which my son's little song drove home to me, and I hope that this expression of it may serve to carry the thought along. It is time to quit talking depression, as a present and burdensome reality, and to begin to lay plans for going "up the 'pout again." By so doing we will accomplish a double result. We will make the time pass more quickly and we will be in position to reap every possible benefit from the conditions which have been forced upon us. The ultimate result will be progress. And the sun will come out. People have been looking for prosperity "around the corner" not realizing that the world is round and has no corners. But when we adjust our thought to the proper angle the corner will appear, and my suggestion will bring out that angle. We can't avert the depression now that we have acknowledged it, but we can, by taking thought of what we shall do, speed its going. For, after all, there is some truth in the statement that the trouble is psychological. I heard a few days ago of a family in which there are several wage earners, none of whom has suffered a cut in pay or a shortening of working time, yet they were loudly bemoaning the hard times and "cussing" the depression. Think of that, Mr. Editor. Surely conditions will soon take a turn for the better, because they can not get much worse. The pendulum has almost reached the limit of its swing.

Speaking of the sun, Mr. Editor, did you ever see the sun rise from behind Mt. Hood? I saw it there yesterday morning—a great, glowing "neon" sphere, behind the cold whiteness of the peak. And I was surprised at the rapidity with which it climbed, and awed by the swift transformation of the purple black hills into rosy light. And, incongruous though it may seem, there flashed again into my mind the words:

"Teeny, weeny 'pider went up the 'pout again."

After the depression—what?

D. B. SIGLER.

#### L. U. NO. 145, ROCK ISLAND AND MOLINE, ILL., AND DAVENPORT, IOWA

Editor:

You know our labor organization had a lot of battling to get our wages up to a living standard as we have had them, now it is up to us to do a lot of thinking and screaming to maintain a living wage when the big cry is to get back to "normal." And if we don't make some consideration which can be put over, successful to the public, I fear we are going to be due for an awful bump.

I think that every increase we have ever received was based on cost of living, now don't be cheating yourself that living cost has not come down; if it has not how is it that we

are getting along on the lesser amount of money nowadays? I think we are getting good training now, and not to be pessimistic, I think the building crafts will have to make some special concession in wage reduction to stimulate the building industry and the buying public.

What is going to happen if we don't agree to that? Can we maintain our standard in organization work? In my opinion the price is going to be very costly in membership and money received by our organization in general. It took a long time to perfect the organization and the working agreement that we have of today.

Now is the time to use common sense in building our future success. First, I am proud that I belong to this organization which has such high ideals. I only hope for its future prosperity, and for the advantages it is offering us at present. If we are able to live to be 65 years of age, we receive a pension from our organization, for only 20 years or more of faithful service to it. I hope that some time soon they will be able to reduce that age limit, or when we have been in good standing 25 years our dues will be paid in full to our I. O. and we will be eligible to the future benefits which it has to offer.

Now perhaps to do those things may mean a change in our dues each month, but after we arrive at the age of 50, and sometimes before, we find ourselves slipping, unable to find much employment and it is not so easy to take care of our I. O. dues and living obligations, and if you have no money the future will look very dark; poverty has caught up with you, and your independence is gone. Think this over, every one of you.

I expect plenty of criticism on this issue but I only hope to see everything for the best. Did you ever think of a better dream to come to the rank and file, in our organization if you could only adopt a slogan, "Down deep in your heart if you can't speak well of a Brother organized worker, don't speak ill of him?" Only at our last meeting, I heard one of our Brothers make the remark that when the visiting Brothers are loafing around in the shop where he was employed not to be slandering some Brother for his faults, for perhaps he has not been taught and educated any better. Brothers, did you ever check up on your own faults? His fault we should write upon the sand, his good on the tablets of love and memory, but you just can't do that to all. If you could just relieve that feeling of jealousy, just think how much easier it would be for our business managers, and good to yourself.

Well, I must get back to earth again. I see one of our Brothers got tired seeing L. U. No. 145's space vacant, and gives us an editorial on our sailor, but he is just "our Deacon," so that's all right. Whatever he says is o. k. Never mind that, Sailor.

Well, after a very good attendance at meeting last evening, the unemployment situation was discussed and all that was done

#### NOTICE

There has been a rumor about the country that Austin, Texas, has plenty of work. That is all a mistake, for there is not enough work for our own members. A few are lucky in getting two days a week.

We therefore advise all traveling members to keep away from Austin, as we are having a difficult time to maintain our existing agreement, under the conditions.

HENRY P. CAIN, F. S.,  
Local Union No. 520.

was that ways and means were made to take care of dues for Brothers not working. The bank which the treasurer had the local deposit in has been closed nearly three months, which worked a hardship in finance, so a little kick-in was necessary, which was taken care of very nicely.

Work in the Tri-Cities is all caught up in all lines, so the boys have plenty of time to discuss new ideas and opinions. Believe me, they bring some dandies.

The only thing wrong is we don't get the money when the getting is good, but think of the good remedy after it is too late; but we are not the only ones who have that trouble; the U. S. Treasury is in the same condition.

G. O. WILSON.

#### L. U. NO. 211, ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.

Editor:

Many a load of contraband has been landed on these shores since this outfit has been heard of. But Gawgie Sinn, the erstwhile press secretary, has been so busy making wire-jerkers out of his vocational school boys that he hasn't had time to perform his other duties. Who knows? those kids will be doing line work next.

The official personnel was not changed at the last election, with the exception of two on the Electrical Brotherhood. "Swick" is still the gavel, Cameron the business manager; Heppie, financial secretary, and Koehler, treasurer. Oh, yeah, "Sleepy" Stephenson was re-elected vice president and your humble (?) servant was appointed to relate these bedtime stories and that's that.

Speaking of work, which I am loath to do, reminds me that it just ain't so everything is progressing in the same old rut, rum and pinochle games inclusive.

The light company is putting their stuff underground and a few of Local No. 211 boys made enough in December to buy powder and shot with which to annihilate the wolf and have him for Christmas dinner. Praise be to Allah. At present a few more are changing over the services in the completed area but the number employed is nothing to write home about.

The poles on our main-drag have been removed for three blocks and you wouldn't know this old home town o' mine. It's getting more cosmopolitan-like every day.

So far this winter we have had the brand of weather that may put a serious crimp in the Florida and other resorts. All of which is a God's blessing to the unfortunate without fuel.

But it has also proven to be a tough break for the fur merchants, of which there are many. I hesitate to speak of furs or fashions for fear of arousing Mrs. York's little boy "Slim," who may emerge from his hide-out and take me to task once again. How about it, Slim, where are yuh? But, old timer, you can't get on my tail any more, and thereby hangs another kind of a tale.

Recently while working one of the big shows Sol Downey and I received a two-buck tip and we both felt that this repression was over but two days later I awoke to learn that I was shy one ruptured appendix, plus a large, juicy case of peritonitis, necessitating a five weeks' hitch in the local hospital. For a while it looked to others that my number was up but "Dizzy" Evans, who was a co-patient, explained it this way: The Supreme Architect was not ready for me yet and his Satanic Majesty didn't care to have his organization disrupted with my arrival.

However, be that as it may, my contention is this: the appendix should always

be encased with cellophane, then when it bursts the serious after effects would be eliminated.

**Thoughts while convalescing:**

Sure am glad that the oxygen supply held out. "Dizzy" was good company and I hated to see him go home. If I ever have to play a return engagement I am going to take my own hot-water bottle and get "Dizz" to wait on me. The straw taste to the first cigarette in 24 days, but the second one was solid comfort. Wonder what's become of "Whitey" Smoot, "Rubber-Covered" Johnson, the personals from The Copyist, Frank Whitehead, Jack Bennett and the debonair Jim Trueman, who is now a deputy sheriff in Paterson? My best regards to all the boys, Jim, and also the Lyceum. All of which reminds me, that both medics have prescribed "no alcoholic contents" for at least one year. Huh, Bert Chambers and I can do that standing on one ear.

Parson Jones, who also is internationally known as "Cold-Wire," has gone hay-wire. Yessir, he actually threw in a 4,000-volt live switch the other day. Shades of St. Nick and Tom Edison.

Cameron freely admits to being Scotch but when asked if he has any, sez, it's none of nobody's business.

A few guys I'd like to choke and no kiddin': The fella who visits a sick friend, who already has two strikes called, and proceeds to recite his own troubles, until the patient runs a higher temperature. Now is that the human thing to do?

The guy who greets you with a friendly (?) sock in the bread-pan and sez: "Hello, old pal! Are you workin'?"

The radio crooners who can't croon worth a dam and sound more like a souse who is inhaling or drooling his soup. Some of those birds should have a basket lampshade to help carry the tune.

Until lately I never realized the pleasure to be found in the radio and to date am sold on the following popular numbers: "Good Night, Sweetheart," "An Ev'ning in Caroline," "Save the Last Dance for Me" and "All of Me."

Last but not least the one to be choked the hardest is the party who insists that spinach must be included in my diet. Now don't get me wrong; that party is not my beloved sparring partner, even though she sees to it that said diet is carried out to the last drop.

According to the medics it should be three months before I can do the brute. And ain't that sumpin'? Then I shall look for a position as desk clerk in a refrigeration plant where all these frozen assets are stored.

And thanks to the boys who came to see me with the flowers, cigarettes, fruit and etcetera, including their own sorrows.

Also thanks to you, Mister Editor for this allotted space. Optimistic huh? Well, why not?

So with special permission of the copyright owners we will now render the closing ode: "The Old Gray Mare Ain't What She Used to Be."

Hasta luego,

BACHIE.

**L. U. NO. 214, CHICAGO, ILL.**

**Editor:**

Here in the city of Chicago, where civic strides are being made for a world's fair called "Century of Progress," to be held next year, and where we are supposed to be inculcated with the spirit of "I will", which hasn't been able to cope with its 650,000 unemployed in the form of relief, where the tax muddle is so involved that the

school teachers have received but two paydays since last May, there is being held a conference which I feel marks a new era in contractive relations between employers and employees.

I refer to the conference of railroad management and employees on all class I railroads in the United States. Here in the Palmer House sits the committee of both sides attempting to agree on many problems facing the 1,500,000 of railroad workers. It may be that before this goes to print that the various propositions promulgated by the organizations have been agreed to, or an agreement of some effect has been agreed to. Perhaps the major problem confronting the workers today and which is being talked of in the conference, is the question of security of employment. Other problems under discussion are: six-hour day, employees' consideration in any scheme of consolidation, some form of federal legislation for pensioning superannuated employees that is workable, regulation of bus transportation, the right of employees to belong to a union, etc.

The railroad heads, on the other hand are contending primarily for a 10 per cent reduction in wages. Our representative on this conference is Brother McGlogan, vice president in charge of railroads. So much for the conference.

Another item of interest that should concern all railroad electricians is the meeting held recently by the various local unions emanating in the city at the suggestion of Brother McGlogan. This meeting was called for the purpose of hearing from our conference committee what had been done up to date. Brother McGlogan in charge of the meeting called on all the members of the conference to give their version of the meeting. Brothers Wright, McCullough, Hartzheim, McEwan, Hayford, Duffy, Slattery, responded and gave some interesting talks on various phases of the organization in general. McGlogan summed up their talks by going quite into a lengthy detail as to the value of membership in our union, as well as outlining the position of the organization in the conference, and the efforts that are being made in securing the best possible agreement. A meeting well worth the time and effort that was made to attend. More of these meetings should be held in the future. They should be helpful in promoting a spirit of co-operation between the various local unions.

Let us for a minute contrast the above mentioned conference with some other form of employee representation. Take for example the many employee stock ownership plans promulgated during the last depression. I will cite one only to give you an idea, although all of them suffered more or less the same fate. The "Federation News" of January 9, 1932, carries a story to the effect that in three years over \$36,000,000 were lost by employees owning stock in U. S. Steel. How was it done? The stock crash, of course. The golden-tongued heads of this corporation to prevent the employees from organizing offered the employees stock and perhaps told them that they would soon become millionaires. Yes, and how. This stock, was bought for \$165 in 1929, \$169 in 1930, and \$140 in 1931. At present the value is around \$40. In all, according to the "News", it amounts to some \$36,000,000. So likewise some of you railroad workers working on railroads having some form of company union will be "gyped" unless you join some legitimate union. You will have noticed that these railroads have already cut the wages of their employees, and where was

your company union at the time? So for your own good make up your mind today and call on the representative, sign up, go along with us, don't be slackers. And those of you who now are members and may be in arrears in your dues, pay up and help us in this battle, for if we don't stand together we will surely fall divided.

On the Northwestern, where we hold the fort, work has not picked up; rather, it has slowed down some more.

CORAZZA.

**L. U. NO. 226, TOPEKA, KANS.**

**Editor:**

"The form of government in America is determined by the abundance of land, its cheapness and the wide distribution of its ownership." —Daniel Webster.

Although the above sounds like Henry George's arguments for single tax, it answers as well for an explanation for the power of special privilege and the impotency of unorganized workers in politics.

One shouldn't pass over this fact too lightly as in it is the real cause of our present economic breakdown as well as our supposedly necessary periodic depressions and our discriminating laws regarding the farmer, labor and capital.

This is a different age from that before the war.

In the previous age of agriculture, infant industries and slow intercommunication, a state, or even a whole nation, might become disorganized or even destroyed without greatly disrupting affairs in neighboring states or nations, as most nations were self-sufficient and produced most necessities within their own boundaries.

But in the present highly organized machine age, states and nations are bound together with steel rails, concrete highways, steamship lanes, telephone wires, Atlantic cables, radio and airplanes, as well as in financial ways through international banks and corporations, loans and debts until the woe of one is the misfortune of all.

Isolation for any important nation is impossible—a weird joke. Die-hard politicians who hope to fool the people were better dead.

Small wages in England, France and India are a menace to the living standards of American workmen. Shall we allow shortsighted American business men and bankers to lower our living standards to those of China or India, with whom we are in direct competition or shall we attempt to bring their standards up to ours?

The age of kings and monarchies with their narrow imaginations and stereotyped ideas is past and we must think in terms of a universe. Instead of balking at a League of Nations, we must be prepared to think of a United States of the World.

Once a farmer was a small king in his own domain and could depend on his own lands to produce food, clothing and most of the farm implements he required. This made him fairly independent of outside aid or the need of money or banks, telephones or good roads. Depressions and want didn't necessarily affect him.

Now the modern farmer is a specialist and any interruption of service from the city power plant will stop production as well as his electric clock and his radio. And what is true of the farmer is much more true of the city dweller who depends on industry every moment of the day and the night. All of which makes resumption of business after a depression a different problem than it was 10 or 20 years ago.

Cutting wages and laying off men is like hitting a sick man over the head with the club that made him sick.

Unless Congress shows some intelligence

and does something else aside from talk and playing politics, we are doomed to another winter of unemployment and distress.

Neither the Republican nor the Democratic party leaders seem to have sensed the need of sacrificing personal and party interests for the interests of the country.

The necessity for large campaign contributions seems to have sealed their mouths and paralyzed their arms when the question of taxing the able-to-pay is under consideration.

God give us men—or even one big man would help!

J. R. WOODHULL.

#### L. U. NO. 230, VICTORIA, B. C.

Editor:

Linemen in both utility companies of British Columbia are working short time. Following this is an announcement by the 'phone company of their highly prosperous condition which can partly be accounted for in the saving in wages of linemen and the dispensing of the services of a great number of operators through the use of the dial system which makes possible new short cuts to wealth for the wealthy shareholders.

My dignity has been so much ruffled of late by the jibes and sneers of the mighty nimrods among my Brothers, who assert that I am a "no account" hunter, that I have worked out the following hunting plan with which to reduce them to abject humility:

I shall provide myself with a large saucer full of the chalk and water which is manufactured by the milk chemists of our fair province, and I shall proceed to the edge of the nearest forest, and there place the said saucer in a prominent position. Then, putting into my voice that pleading inflection which our business agent, Brother Reid, uses so successfully, when endeavoring to extract without pain back dues from a delinquent Brother, I shall call calmly but firmly, "Poosie! Poosie! Po-o-o-sie!" Then from out the deep, dark woods will come one of those great, green-eyed, glorified, cross-eyed tomcats which nature has created expressly for the prevention of overproduction of live stock among the farmers and thus limiting their wealth so that they may not become obnoxious to poor city dwellers. Approaching me, Thomas will observe the saucer and partake of its contents, after which I will take a piece of string, loop one end around his neck and the other around my wrist and say, "Follow me, Thomas!" The great creature, overcome by my dominant manner, will follow meekly in my footsteps. As we proceed, increasing numbers of people will be attracted by the amazing spectacle, and by the time we reach the main artery of the city the street will be blocked by a dense mass of wildly cheering humanity, leaving only a narrow lane for me to walk through. Batteries of movie cameras will be madly cranked by their astonished operators. From nearby balconies beautiful ladies will throw flowers down upon me, but like the old Roman emperor returning from a successful war with his captives bound to his chariot wheels, I will move proudly on, while voices from the crowd shout, "Sufferin' cats! See what Shappie's got!" With my manly bosom thrust out like a pouter pigeon, I will direct my steps to the police station and request one of the blue coats to humanely chloroform the trusting Thomas with a sawed off shot gun. This being done, I will drape the remains around my person and like a Greek gladiator clad in a lion skin, I will stroll nonchalantly to the government offices, and there demand full bounty from a bountiful government for the remains. Soon the evening sky will be lit up by blazing signs at all the leading theatres, announcing, "COME AND SEE THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY

#### ANIMAL PICTURE OF THE CENTURY, SHOWING THE CONTROL OF MIND OVER MATTER, BY THE CELEBRATED LION TAMER, PROFESSOR WOTTA-WOW."

With the proceeds of the bounty, added to the royalties from the moving pictures, I shall be as far removed from penury as a millionaire is from charity.

SHAPPIE.

#### L. U. NO. 245, TOLEDO, OHIO

Editor:

Hello, electrical workers. How are ye? Toledo hasn't anything to boast of this month. We are working but three and four days per week and are down to the limit in man power. But I hope that this is not a general condition, and from the letters I receive from different ones throughout the country I believe that things are improving in certain places.

I hope that you all received your Christmas present from Local No. 3 in New York entitled, "The Lunatic."

It seems that no matter how much one tries to build up an organization someone acting like a chorus girl tries to put the skids under them by destructive criticism. For like a great big chorus, everyone hopes some day to become the prima donna and jealousy often ruins the efforts of an earnest director and sometimes spoils the show. But, men, let's get back of our director to assure the success of our show. It is too bad that each one of us after paying dues for a couple of months couldn't get a job as president or vice president, then all would be harmony. But where would we get?

If we were all prima donnas we would all still be the chorus, so what would it get us? I don't believe that the letter received on I. B. E. W. stationery from Local No. 3, of New York, spoke for the membership as a whole, but rather the few that every local has that are always willing to corrupt the organization whether there is any other benefit than personal vengeance. We have them in our small local and the large local in New York seems to be no exception to the rule. But I believe that this present depression has done this much good. A small handful cannot fool the multitude as they did a few years back.

If we have a president who is right then let's get back of him. If we think he is wrong let us first find out his faults for ourselves and not take the words of letters poisoned for the purpose of a personal gain.

Let us have our president answer for our own information the letter sent the membership in his own way and let us read it and from that form our own opinion. But in the meantime let us continue to take him for what he is and has been and back him to a man, for in that lies our future success.

For it's sometimes harder to sell an organization to its own members than it is to the public itself. Just like some large company servicing the public with more respect from the public than from the employees themselves, because some fraction of some working condition has put a bitter feeling in the hearts of the employees, yet through them and their service in the past has grown the confidence of the customers in the company that serves them. And in order to retain the confidence of the people it is first necessary to retain the confidence of the employee. Pleasant working conditions and a living wage is the best method of assuring that feeling of contentment among employees and, after all, isn't that the purpose of organized labor—to see that we get the best working conditions possi-

ble? That has been done in the past by co-operation between the officers and rank and file and not by fighting each other. So let us acknowledge one thing and profit by it and make it a resolution that as long as the officers continue to render the same reliable service as in the past that we back them up as one. For in order to put anything or article across in a big way first sell it to your salesmen in a big way.

EDW. E. DUKESHIRE.

#### L. U. NO. 265, LINCOLN, NEBR.

Editor:

Quite a few years have elapsed since a letter from Local No. 265 has appeared in the columns of the JOURNAL. We hope from now on to be heard from somewhat oftener, at least for the sake of old acquaintances and one time members of this local who may be in want of news concerning what is happening in Lincoln, Nebr. You old-timers, though, will have to bear with the writer of this letter, for we fear that he will be dragged over the coals for making public to JOURNAL readers the sad state of affairs in the electrical industry in this city. It is not our intention, however, to publish our woes to the world; rather, this letter is meant, more so, for home consumption.

Are you knocked off your feet to hear that the members of this local have been fairly well employed during the "depression" years, save for a slack spell of a few weeks now and then? One of those spells has been upon us now for several months. And a look into the future indicates that we are, for the first time, really to feel the depression. We know though that many of our citizens have put off remodelling, repairing, and home-building; merely waiting for these lean months to pass. We believe sincerely that when the signs of business recovery once become evident, these citizens will carry out their long delayed plans. Should they do so, we wiremen will again be busy. We are earnestly praying that this early spring will usher in the "turn."

It may be of interest to one-time members of this local, now residing elsewhere, to hear that for the most part the same old faces are to be seen in the union hall on meeting night. Those two old members, Brothers Tibbets and Schon, are still with us. However, we don't see much of Brother Schon any more. Brother Carver just returned from California to be with us for an indefinite time. Brother Jack Colin is still here, but we hardly know it, since he is quite delinquent in his attendance at meetings. Of course, we know that during the summer months he had an abundance of shrubbery to water and prune on meeting nights. Now that the winter's frost has withered the landscape and made his horticultural hobby look like so much "flayed bush," we expect, henceforth to see more of him. Brother Prosser, till lately, has found it difficult to make these meetings regularly. So far we have not been able to find out just what his "racket" is on this particular night. The rest of the members attend our meetings quite regularly. Brother Roberts, our financial secretary, has never, to our knowledge, missed a meeting. It would not be far from the truth to say that if he did once miss a meeting, the majority of this local would be in arrears the next morning.

We wish the members of this local were as enthusiastic in furthering union activities as they are loyal in attendance. They wholeheartedly agree to do something to better their interests, but never seem to accomplish much after that. They leave the impression that they don't care to fight, or to be the aggressive agency they ought to be. This indifference is largely due to the fact

that they have been busy, and, therefore, well satisfied with conditions, terrible as they are. Meanwhile, the power and strength of this local has been, slowly but surely, tobogganing down hill, because of this passive attitude. Six months of hard times will likely make this local again a spirited and aggressive body eagerly working for the advancement and the growth of our organization. Just recently, though, we started out on a constructive program to build up this local and to better the conditions of our trade generally. For one thing, we have started a night school. And we have also launched a project or two that ought to repay our efforts a hundred fold.

We may say here that our local is beset by a number of conditions unusual to most cities. First, this is not an industrial city, but a school town of 100,000 population, overrun every year by four or five thousand students, bright and dumb, who seek to work their way through school. Some of them "leak" into our trade. Next, we have an electrical ordinance, if you may call it such, of which the only redeeming feature discernible is that provision concerning safety in the use of electrical apparatus in the bathroom. We have an able inspection bureau, but it is deficient in the number of inspectors, nor do we control it. We have a chamber of commerce militant to anything that smacks of unionism. This business group delight in the excess of 20 and 30 cent an hour labor. Furthermore, we have a more than desirable Russian population out of which is recruited the engineers, firemen, janitors, and electrical maintenance men for our buildings. Ideal they are for these jobs since they are cheap, plentiful and richly blessed with certain bovine characteristics. Nobody seems to appreciate just how much harm they do us.

To get nearer home, our employers—union contractors—cannot get together, it seems, to develop a worthwhile contractors' organization to fight for their interests. They harbor much envy, spite and ill-will among themselves. This is so apparent that even the customer notices and takes advantage of it. Several times have we gotten them together in conferences, but because of this prejudice or the memory of some petty unfair practice perpetrated by one upon the other years ago, we never get them enthusiastically behind a program to help themselves. Nevertheless, it is true, that until our contractors do organize and are able to present a program as emanating from an organized business group, we will get nowhere with any program to advance the electrical industry in this city.

And, on top of this, we have the ever-present "curber." He has grown fat and multiplied during the time of our lassitude. You know, we have a "sackful of 'em." To tell the truth, we can supply you with one of any race, color, creed and, perhaps, sex. Obviously, all the conditions enumerated above have made him what he is today in our city. He is strong; stronger than we are by far. The way he operates proves that he is an antagonist to better conditions. We have tried means to eradicate him, but like "rats" they are exceedingly prolific, and where one is sent to the dumps three rise in his place.

This organization has discussed many schemes to better conditions here. We have tried a new ordinance, but the journeyman's license didn't help much. We have discussed changing the examining board. We have attempted a contractors' organization, but failed. What haven't we discussed? But till now nothing much has been accomplished. The truth is that conditions are now deplorable, and becoming worse, because we are not on our toes and doing things to combat further demoralization of the industry.

Brother members of other locals drop in to tell us how surprised they are that conditions are so bad. When they tell us of conditions in other towns they have been in, we feel ancient, or believe we are asleep on duty. Our International Representatives stand aghast when they hear our story. We have heard so much about conditions in other places we grow sick to think of our own.

We feel very much like the rooster that was quite unsatisfied with the egg production in his own farm-lot. One day he decided to stroll around the neighborhood to look about. All at once he ran upon a huge ostrich egg. Awed at first, he finally determined to roll it home. Pushing with one foot and then the other, he at last, with much effort, rolled the ostrich egg into his own backyard. Majestically, he called his flock about him, and simply told them in a matter of fact tone of voice, "Ladies, I'm not complaining, but I just want to show you what they are doing in other places."

A SELF-APPOINTED SCRIBE.

#### L. U. NO. 284, PITTSFIELD, MASS.

Editor:

L. U. No. 284, of Pittsfield, Mass., seems to have become stagnant in so far as the press secretary is concerned, so until such time as I can determine which of our members will be able to think of some subject to write on if he is appointed to the scribe's office, I will endeavor to pinch hit for the local.

On Thursday, January 14, we had a special meeting for the purpose of installing the research system that is recommended by the International Office and every member who was present was given complete instructions as to what was expected of him and how he should fill out and mail in his weekly report cards. Many members failed to attend this special meeting and so will be in ignorance of how, when and where to fill out and mail in the cards. I wish to call to the attention of members who were absent, as well as to all others of 284 that failure to send in the cards will result in an assessment of \$5 and I don't mean maybe. Any Brother who wishes information on this subject can obtain same from Brother Clement Menard, who is in charge of this work as an assistant to Business Manager Harrington.

I am sorry to state that on the date of our regular executive board meeting only three members put in an appearance, thus making it necessary for the business manager to call a special executive board meeting for Monday, January 25, in order to take care of the question of our finances as affects the protection of the unemployed Brother.

I have repeatedly pleaded with the members of the executive board on the subject of attendance but evidently the pleading fell on deaf ears. I cannot take each officer by the hand and lead him to the meeting every month, so in the future I will publish the names of those who are absent from the meetings of the executive board in order that the membership of the local union may see how the officers they elect are fulfilling their obligations.

I also wish to call to the attention of all members of Local No. 284 that unless your dues are paid in advance for three months previous to making application you will receive no sick benefit. This is plainly stated in the sick benefit laws so don't try to get benefit unless you comply with the law.

Work in Pittsfield has been fair up to now but there does not seem to be much in prospect for the immediate future and we have a large number of our membership

on the idle roll at the present time with the possibility of adding several more shortly.

It is a pleasure, Mr. Editor, to state that once again I am receiving my copy of the much-esteemed WORKER and if any Brother who does not receive his copy will let me know of it I will be glad to see if Brother Bugnizet and I can't find a spare copy for him.

JOHN D. NELSON,  
President.

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#### L. U. NO. 292, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Editor:

It is now over two years since the epidemic of "Hoover prosperity" broke out, with the stock market crash. It still appears to be in a very healthy condition, sufficiently so, at least, to resist all efforts, that are likely to be put forth, aiming at its destruction, for some time to come.

Now, if we get four years more of this same brand of "good old Republican times" our troublous problems will all be solved for most of us and the only ones that will have to worry will be the undertakers, as to how they are going to collect their bills.

That "good old Republican times" quotation is a slogan that lingers in my memory from some 36 or 37 years ago at a time when the country was enjoying a very similar wave of "Grover Cleveland Democrat prosperity" back in 1893 to 1896 or 1898, when there were over 5,000,000 men out of work in this country and during which time General Coxey marched his famous army into Washington to demand relief from the government. Many were the remedies that were suggested at that time, just as there are at the present time. Henry George's single tax idea gained quite a following. The Populist Party came to the front with a platform pledged to the public ownership, i. e., government ownership, of all public utilities. "Coin" Harvey and several others wrote books on the coinage question and that became the big issue in the elections of 1896 and 1900 with W. J. Bryan as standard bearer of the Silverites.

In contrasting these two very similar economic depressions, one seems to sense the idea that they are neither of Democratic nor Republican origin but that they both appear as the natural and legitimate offspring of the capitalist system. Not but what politics has had a certain amount to do with it, but it is not party politics, but the manipulation of politics by and in the interests of the large vested interests of the country.

There is a well-known law of physics that no more can be gotten out of any machine than is put in (in fact, not quite as much; there is always a loss), i. e., you can't get something for nothing (that is why perpetual motion is impossible) and this applies equally well in the realm of economics. Yet the present capitalist system is based on the violation of this law. The owners of every industry and every business in the country, by means of the profit system, are continually taking out more than they put in. This is done at the expense of the workers (they, the workers, take out less than they put in), therefore, at the expense of the market, for the workers of the world form the great bulk of the markets of the world. This unbalanced condition of the industrial machine eventually produces a glutted market; call it overproduction or underconsumption, or whatever you like, the wheels of industry cease to revolve because the machine is clogged and eventually it will break down altogether.

Back in the time of the panic of 1893 to 1898, the system had a fair start towards

the breakdown point, but there were several circumstances which intervened at that time to save the situation. In 1898, came the Spanish-American War, which gave some relief to the unemployment; then shortly before that the Bell Telephone patents had expired and the country was swept with a wave of telephone construction, both independent and Bell that lasted for several years. Also the invention of the automobile resulted in the development of an industry that gave employment to thousands. All these, together with the fact that the discovery of gold in Alaska had relieved the financial situation, not only relieved the depression, but brought about a state of what might be called normally prosperous times that lasted (with the exception of the money panic of 1908) until 1914, when the country was again on the verge of economic catastrophe that was only averted by the breaking out of the World War.

Looking over the present situation, one fails to discern one bright spot on the economic horizon. To begin with, the present depression is world wide, which leaves us little hope of an outlet through foreign markets. Today, we are the great creditor nation. If we were a debtor nation we might use our surplus to pay our debts. No hope there. Well, there is the government's public works program, what of that? Yes, what of it? Look at the Mississippi River project and Boulder Dam and several others. Let to rapacious contractors who pay starvation wages and then, in many instances, take even them back through the "pluck me" company store system. No relief there through created markets.

Government relief through a federal day labor system? Don't laugh. It's not funny; it's tragic. Unemployment insurance? They call that a dole. It is not a dole any more than life insurance is blood money. But, dole or no dole, should civilized man hesitate to put anything into operation that will relieve the suffering and misery that exist at the present time? But a dole given to the workers would pauperize them; make them beggars and grafters. Oh, yes! The workers who have toiled for a pittance in the mines, mills, factories and the marts of trade and now, having lost the opportunity even to toil for that pittance, would be turned into grafters if they were paid a "dole" by the government. But the profit gouging owners of the industries of all kinds from barge lines to banks that have waxed fat off the toil of the workers can be granted subsidies and there is no danger of making grafters out of them. In fact, there is no danger whatever of making grafters out of them. Most of them are already past-masters in that line.

If the workers wish any relief during this time of stress they must provide it for themselves, and if they desire any adequate solution of the situation they will have to do the solving.

W. WAPLES.

#### L. U. NO. 329, SHREVEPORT, LA.

Editor:

Along in the summer of 1931 there was a little work around here for some of the traveling Brothers and some of us home guards. A sub station and several towers were built for the Southwestern Gas and Electric and nobody but the L. E. Myers Construction doing the said work. But, however, Myers paid the scale and worked Local No. 329 men. Our business manager and the Brothers working on the job had to keep on them from 8 o'clock in the morning until 5 p. m. and up until the wee hours at night.

It seems like they wanted to bring their 65-cent-per-hour men in here to do the work. Some of the higher ups thought we did not have any men capable of doing the work. Another reason, they thought some of the men too old to do the work. Damn! What is a man going to do when he gets a few grey hairs in his head? Especially us young punks—go off somewhere, find a hole and crawl into it and pull the hole in after him and die, I suppose.

What they wanted was for some of the boys to pull a strike and they would fire the rest and bring the 65-cent-per-hour men in here and finish the job. But they got slipped up. Our Local No. 329 men finished the job all O. K. And as far as I know it was satisfactory to both parties involved.

Now about some of the local conditions existing in and around Shreveport. Things do not look so hot here at present or in the near future. The light company cut to half time the first of January, 1932. Some of the worthy Brothers do not like this idea. They seem to think that they are being mistreated. And for all the grumbling and growling you ever heard this place cops the fur-lined bathtub. That is the best thing that ever happened during

this panic, depression, or hard times, or anything you may call it. Better than laying off another crew and that is just what would have happened if this agreement had not been reached. I guess some of the Brothers will have to cut their booze allowance in half since they are working half time.

Now a word about the writer. What would they do if they were in my shoes, worked two and one-half months in the last 14 months? I have not starved to death but have gone hungry on several occasions.

Things have been pretty hot around here for the past 30 days. The Brothers have been trying to elect a governor and have succeeded in doing so. No one but the chairman of the Louisiana Highway Commission—O. K. Allen. Along with our present governor, Huey Long, and some of the boys made it possible. They have done a fair job of it. He went into office by a majority of 65,000 votes over four other candidates. Some of us poll tax payers got a chance to get part of our tax money back in this way. The O. K. Allen ticket paid us the sum of \$10 for the car and \$6 without to get out and do a little politicing. Now who said I was no politician? Ha, ha!

## "DEDICATED TO OUR LATE FRIEND"— JOE HANAGIN

By DAN REEDER, Local No. 9  
Chicago, Ill.

The march of time beats on and on,  
And another from our ranks has gone.  
E'en as the Autumn leaf doth fall  
He has obeyed his Master's call,  
To join the ranks of those of yore  
To meet them on the other shore.

He that so well enjoyed a lark,  
Has stepped into the Phantom Bark  
And left us standing on Life's shore,  
His labor done, his troubles o'er.  
A tribute to his memory then,  
In these frail lines we fain would pen.

And as he journeyed on his way,  
Some pleasure brought he every day.  
His hearty laugh, his cheery smile,  
For others made life worth the while.  
As from his life he banished woe  
He bravely faced man's dullest foe.

E'en in the heat or in the cold  
He faced each as a warrior bold.  
He had time for work, he had time for play,  
And found new pleasures in each day.  
In him a manly man we see,  
To all our hearts he had a key.

We who are left must struggle on,  
How oft we'll say, "Well, Joe is gone."  
All through his life he did his best,  
Then calmly laid him down to rest.  
Of him we say, a life well spent,  
In all his deeds no harm was meant.

This verse from Gray's Elegy, written in a Country Churchyard, describes best Joe Hanagin's passing:

"Large was his bounty, and his soul sincere,  
Heaven did a recompense as largely send,  
He gave to mis'ry (all he had) a 'tear',  
He gained from Heav'n ('twas all he wished)  
'A Friend'."

Now that Huey Long has elected a governor to take his place, he will be flying to Washington to take his seat in the Senate as a junior Senator of Louisiana. I sure think we need a few more live ones like Long up in Washington and maybe part of this depression would stop. I know a lot of the rag chewing would cease and they would get down to real business. So much for Long.

Some of the Brothers have gone into business for themselves. Brother Copeland has gone to traveling for Rawleigh's products. Here's to Brother Copeland and we sure hope he makes a howling success at his new business. Brother Miner left to go back to Del Rio to work on a sheep ranch. They sure lost a good sheep herder in Texas when Brother Miner came to Louisiana to do line work. Sure hope he stays there and maybe some of we stump jumpers for Arkansas will go to work.

Now I want to get down to real honest facts and say a few words that will do all members of organized labor some good. It is about the garments you wear. When you go into your merchant to purchase wearing apparel see that the goods you buy bear the label and if it does not tell him you want it to bear the label. If he has not got it turn about face and walk out. The next time you go into his store he will remember what you told him. He will stand up and take notice. It does not cost you any more in the long run. You are helping the underpaid union textile workers out and when you do that you are helping the cause of organized labor. The union mill workers are underpaid as it is. A person does not know what they have to contend with. I would like to see all the open shop mills put out of business and there is only one way and that is to stop buying the non-union goods.

Another reason is this: the open shop mills of the south and almost everywhere work children from the age of 10 to 15 years and pay them the sum of eight to 12½ cents per hour and work them all the way from nine to 14 hours per day. Stop and think. How would you like for your younger sister or brother to have to work under these conditions? It makes your blood boil, doesn't it? I say yes. These are facts; you do not have to take my word for it; you can walk into almost any non-union mill and find such conditions as I mentioned above. So bear this in mind and purchase goods bearing the label. You will be helping more of the union garment workers out. Keep this up and all of them would go back to work in a matter of a few months.

The weather conditions around here have been like a joke I heard once. Two men, standing in front of a drygoods store; a woman came up with two babies. She asked them to hold her babies. One's name was Al Smith, the other was Herbert Hoover. When she came out one of the men asked her the names and she told them. He said: "I must have Al Smith." So that is the weather conditions here.

The wire jerkers at the airport can hardly make it over there. The manholes are full of water. The outside men or linemen got everything the hen laid but the egg over there. The International Office gave all the laying of the duct, pulling in cable and all the tender ground work to the wiremen. That did not set very well with most of the Brothers here, anyway. The boys could not say anything after the decision was handed down by the International Office, but, anyway, we can think, but think to ourselves. So much for that.

Any Brother knowing Brother George

Billasch, one of our past secretaries, remember that he would like to hear from anyone. He has been in a government hospital for something like four years, up until a while back. You can reach him at this address, 653 East Monroe Street, Springfield, Mo.; so some of the Brothers let him hear from you. He sure would appreciate it very much and it would cheer him up considerable. Here's luck to George and hope he's getting along O. K.

At our last regular meeting we voted on a smoker and it went over big. The boys are trying their best to hold up under these hard times, so we are having a smoker and inviting a lot of the boys who do not belong, trying to get them into the local. I sure hope we do some good for we need it around here at present. A lot of the Brothers are dropping their cards; say they cannot afford to pay a small price of \$3.50 a month, but I see some of them can pay from \$6 to \$8 per gallon for booze. Surely they could pay \$3.50 for dues. Time will tell who is who and why. I always did say a man you had to buy into any labor organization was not worth a damn. It is a dead cinch he will not do any good on the outside, so try to get him on the inside and teach him the principles of organized labor and maybe he will make a good member. In conclusion I wish to say let us work for the betterment of the organization to which we belong.

CURLY HUDSON.

#### L. U. NO. 409, WINNIPEG, MAN.

Editor:

We are away for a good start for 1932. The well-attended meeting of the local first got down to the business of electing officers for the ensuing year for various committees. Practically no changes were made, the membership being satisfied with the representation handling these jobs and by past performance. The entertainment committee starts the year with four new members and lots of hope.

A new Brother was admitted to membership under this item of business.

During the evening's business Brother Hosfield received a vote of confidence on his report of attendance at the system's federation meeting, and all were gratified at this Brother's acceptance of this important office for another term.

Brother Tommy Buxton also received endorsement for his outstanding efforts at the Transcona shops in connection with business of this local for the past year. Discussion on general topics occupied the balance of the evening.

In passing, I should like to endorse the stand of Brother A. L. Taylor, of L. U. No. 561, Montreal, Que., in regard to "the dole." Undoubtedly, unemployed insurance properly administered would be a means of relieving a great amount, if not all, anxiety to workers and their families.

In order to air one's views on the matter a great deal of statistics must be quoted, and statistics are not my dish, they must always be quoted as "according to so and so," and each and every authority seems to have a different source of supply.

Having no authentic figures on the subject at hand, I cannot take any responsibility for any I may quote.

Many men and women who are unemployed will demur at the idea of charity. It is for this reason the name "the dole" was given to this form of insurance by unscrupulous opponents to hoodwink the general public into believing that it is a charitable relief. This is, as many know, untrue; it is an unemployment insurance actually—just as any other form of insurance—paid for by a cer-

tain amount deducted from the wages of the worker, and the employer, plus so much set aside by the government for this purpose.

There are certain strings to this when it comes to drawing this insurance through unemployment that are unnecessary to go into here. In my humble opinion, unless the workers of the United States and Canada use their franchise intelligently and put representatives in power who will really represent them, very little can be gained along this line, for without a doubt if ever we get this legislation through the usual channels which we as a whole are wont to follow, we workers will pay the piper and the wealthy parasite will sit and gloat and heave a sigh of relief once more to see his ill-gotten gains untouched.

Wake up, you Brothers across the line. You have an election this year. Let us see you lead the way in this important matter.

R. J. GANT.

#### L. U. NO. 474, MEMPHIS, TENN.

Editor:

I sincerely believe every local in the country can stand better conditions than have existed in ours for the past year. Two-thirds of our members have not worked during the past year, although we had a very good agreement. Work was not available and there is nothing in sight for the year of 1932. We have recently signed a new agreement with the contractors with a wage cut of 20 per cent, or from \$10 to \$8 a day, five days a week. There have always been a few shops open, not over four or five and will be open regardless of conditions.

Regardless of the fact that it has been circulated over the country that a new water plant is now under construction, very few electricians will be used. All Brothers who are floaters, or those who class themselves as floaters, should make up their minds not to buy a house and lot and depend on "Memphis on the Mississippi" doing more than any other town in Dixie, as there are no requirements for buildings of any kind. This same condition exists in many other cities. Also there is very little repair work going on.

I often stop and wonder if other locals have as much trouble with the I. A. T. S. E. and theaters as Local No. 474.

The membership of our local has decreased some, due to the fact some have found other employment here or elsewhere, but the remaining members, more noticeably the oldtimers, are looking forward for the election of new officers in June. I sincerely believe that new and younger members should be in the offices, ones that will take just as much interest in the local as our oldtimers do, whom we all know have their hearts and souls wrapped up in the local's affairs.

I believe our past press secretary has been lax in his duties and as new press secretary of Local No. 474, I do not say I will be 100 per cent but I will try to do better. I am not a good hand at writing nor an expert of the sort, but like many of the boys, I myself enjoy reading the WORKER. There is good and bad reading in any journal, but it enlightens many Brothers on subjects that they would not otherwise know of and understand.

We would be interested in hearing from some of the locals regarding their apprentice systems.

Here's hoping for better conditions soon.

R. B. BAKER.

Allow all the governed an equal voice in government. That and that only is self-government.—Abraham Lincoln.

**L. U. NO. 497, WENATCHEE, WASH.**

Editor:

We are confronted with the same condition here that numerous locals throughout the Brotherhood are confronted with—trying to hold together a local in the face of overwhelming obstacles. We have met with one disappointment after another, yet we still carry on.

It is not a pleasant sight or sensation to see those whom a person believed true and staunch members of the Brotherhood revert back to the ranks of enemies—those rodents which are always a disgrace to the principles of organized labor; the "rat," who is forever cutting, knocking and tearing down the conditions we have worked and denied ourselves of easier courses in order to build up.

However, such is the progress of organized labor. There is always something looming up on the horizon of tomorrow which will not let our thoughts dwell long on those problems of today. We have fought, as our Brothers before us have fought; we, as well as they, have tasted victory and defeat. However, those who did not let defeat weaken their determination to carry on we owe the thanks for our existing Brotherhood, which is a worthy tribute towards the goal we aspire to reach.

The conditions which we are confronted with are exacting of one's vitality to such an extent that it is like a flame which has gained headway in dry moss, fanned by a high wind, flames consuming everything they reach, uncontrollable if offered no resistance.

Let us as one strike out the "de" and "i" out of "depression"—press on.

H. J. WELCH.

**L. U. NO. 508, SAVANNAH, GA.**

Editor:

Recent events seem to indicate that a concerted effort is being made to cripple the public school system throughout the country. The financial mess in Chicago, where the school teachers have not drawn their pay for many months, is one glaring example with which most everyone is familiar. A short time ago a bill was introduced in the South Carolina legislature to discontinue state aid to public schools, for a period of one year, beginning July 1, 1932, and continuing to July 1, 1933. It is admitted that this action will close most of the public schools in that state for this period of time. Other incidents along these same lines could be recounted, but the one I wish to discuss at this time, because I am more familiar with it, is our own local school situation. A short time ago a member of the Chatham County school commissioners, who by the way is also a banker, introduced a resolution before the board of education, calling for a reduction in certain teachers' salary with an accompanying reduction in the school tax. Needless to say organized labor immediately took up the fight in behalf of the teachers. The Savannah Trades and Labor Assembly, ably assisted by George L. Googe, southern representative of President Green, of The American Federation of Labor, fought and won a major victory. Here is how it was done. Inasmuch as this move was made under the guise of relieving the taxpayer, organized labor used this same weapon to fight back with. A committee went to the county courthouse and analyzed the tax digest, showing the public what a small percentage of taxes were derived from intangible assets. Now when you begin to talk about stocks and bonds, jewelry and money—that are not returned for taxation—you begin

**THREE NEW TOOLS**

By S. C. SWISHER, I. O.

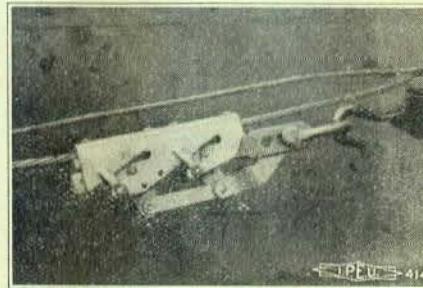
A short broadcast from an old timer, and some pictures of line tools I have invented. I started on my first wire fixing job in 1897 and have been fixing wires ever since. The location of these wires varied a lot, being anywhere between the basement and roof, and from underground to 90 feet in air, with the thermometer at from 30 below to 120 above. I would have been going strong yet but my heart refused so I dead-ended at that, checked up the balance sheet for those 35 years and all it showed was a varied lot of experience, some pleasant memories and some otherwise. I have saved the lives of several of my fellow workers, and prevented the death of others. From now on I am going to try to help the



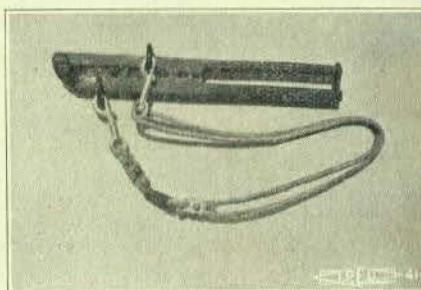
THREE TOOLS DISPLAYED

boys do the job by giving them better tools to work with.

The come-along with the hoisting cable I designed for use on all kinds of line and feeder wires and cables, bare or insulated. I went to my friend, C. C. Coon, of Safety Live Line Tool Company, at 600 Fallon Street, Oakland, Calif. He, too, is a wire fixer of a goodly number of years' experience. He arranged some breaking up tests on this clamp, after seeing it pull wires and cables into including No. 4-0 weather proof cable, and seeing the hoisting cable stand up to a test of over 13,000 hours. Chet Coon said it surely gripped and was entitled to be classed as a come-along. He is making them up in three sizes. The small one weighs three pounds and will pull from a No. 4 bare wire to a No. 1-0 bare. Size two weighs four and one-quarter pounds and is for use on wires between three-eighths inch and seven-eighths inch in diameter. Third size for wires between five-eighth inch and one and one-eighth inch in diameter. This one weighs seven pounds. This wire come-along entirely surrounds the wire and cannot be shaken off. Place it on the wire, use a stick to shove it out as far as desired; the same stick may be used to hook the block into it.



AT WORK

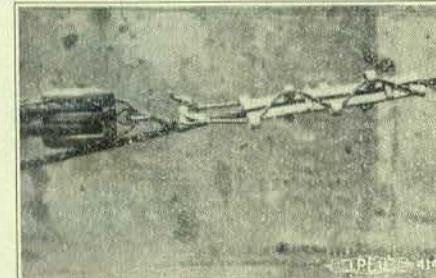


A CLOSE-UP

inch. The cams are mounted on a movable core; this furnishes the adjustment to various wire sizes. I have not the money to market this one.

The other tool I call a guyneck hickey and its job is to bring the neck of the guy together for serving up or placing guy clamp; it does the job nicely. Then you may also make up Nos. 6, 4 and 2 copper sleeves with this tool. I am making up a wire skinning knife and am working on a snap with a locked tongue; this will make the safety belt safer.

In closing, I wish to say to the new man who has just started on his 35 years of wire fixing, I wish him a lot of luck as he probably would be unable to see where my advice and experience would fit into his young life, and to the old timer, happy days and pleasant dreams.



DOING ITS WORK

to step on the toes of a class of people who think it quite all right to rob the various governments, local, state and national, just as they think it quite all right to rob the worker of his just return for labor. A committee appeared before the board of education and made a strong case in opposition to the salary cut, but the real work was done before hand with newspaper and radio publicity dealing with the tax situation and convincing the public that more than sufficient funds could be raised if an equitable tax assessment would be made.

Although we were successful in this first skirmish we believe another effort will be made soon and preparations are being formulated to fight it no matter what form it is made in. Free public schools may well be referred to as the child of organized labor. Education is one of, if not the most important thing in life and must be guarded and fought for as something precious, and any effort to handicap the facilities of the public school system must be resisted vigorously, and organized labor will in this, as in most other things of vital importance to the masses, furnish the greater part of the resistance, as well as furnish the leaders to wage the fight.

A. W. THIOT.

#### L. U. NO. 561, MONTREAL, QUE.

Editor:

Once again I take time off to write you a few lines to let you know that Local No. 561 is still on the map, and say, are we having glorious weather here? Very mild and plenty of sun. Just imagine, January 21 and no snow. We will soon be able to compete with Florida for winter vacations.

The C. P. R. members who are working are still doing only 16 days a month and we are sorry to say that the C. N. R. boys are on 15 days a month, starting with January. We expect to have a few of our unemployed C. P. R. men back with us soon, and that will make things a little brighter and we will be tickled to death to see them back. Brother J. DeRentigny is back at work after being out sick, the result of an argument with a 2,000 volt line, a bad thing to get tangled up with.

We are all waiting to hear the report of the royal commission on the transportation problem in Canada and hope that some good will come out of their deliberations. We are glad to see that Montreal's unemployment loan of \$15,000,000 was oversubscribed as it will be a great boon to our city and its people. Work is figured to start this week on the city's relief works. This seems to be all the news this month, so cheerio.

A. L. TAYLOR.

#### L. U. NO. 568, MONTREAL, QUE.

Editor:

We have started off to a new year with the firm hope that we have left behind a year that will prove to be the worst year of the depression. Economists give us a little encouragement with their predictions for the future. Yet they openly state that great changes will have to be made to the present system, or all kinds of things are likely to happen. Sir George Paish says: "It is a very, very dangerous situation, I am not exaggerating."

Fear of the unknown and untried seems to hinder the big wigs from progressing. We need nationalization of all public utilities and finance. Imagine 1,753 banks, with \$1,462,000,000 deposits, closing their doors in 10 months in the U. S. A. In October alone 512 banks closed down, with deposits totaling \$566,000,000. This is colossal. De-

cember 21 the Standard Trust Bank, Cleveland Ohio, asked the state department to take over their institution, total deposits involved \$14,000,000. What a nice Christmas present, eh! These happenings make the workingman ask some very awkward questions: Who took the money? Where did it go? Who got the bank into this mess? Will anyone go to jail? Of this I am absolutely certain, our own labor leaders would not get into such a pickle as this, so let us be prepared for the time when we will have to take over control of the nation, which must come eventually.

We have accepted a 15-cent-per-hour cut in our wages, but in return we have managed to get closed shops signed by five of the leading contractors of the city, so our loss is turned into a gain. This is something we have not had before. We must take our ups and downs; life is not so smooth that we have all ups. These things should teach us a lesson that we must all get together and stick together. "We fall to rise, are baffled to fight better." Rally around, help to make our local stronger, let every knock be a boost.

Latest depression story: I asked a member how he was managing to keep the wolf from the door, "Keep the wolf from the door?" he asked, "We've dragged him in and eaten him."

From the "New Zealand Worker":

This world, so sadly incomplete,  
Shows contrast strange, I vow:  
With rich folks wondering what to eat  
And poor folks wondering how.

Here's looking at you.

GEORGE HILL.

#### L. U. NO. 640, PHOENIX, ARIZ.

Editor:

The New Year was ushered in with the usual hokum. Big business leaders predicting the gradual upturn for 1932. This is the same optimism that was carried over from 1931 and the number of unemployed is increasing.

Our federal, state and local relief agencies were created, their purpose being to create jobs and extend relief. That they have failed in it is no secret. Now they are trying to block what relief that our federal and state legislatures are attempting to provide for us. We can take Walter S. Gifford's word for it, to the Senate committee, that their local agencies are able to cope with the situation. In the call for a special session of the Arizona legislature on December 28, the governor included a request for \$5,000,000 for public construction to alleviate unemployment conditions within the state. From all indications the legislature will adjourn without considering any relief plan. Powerful influence of our unemployment relief committees are opposing it. We shall have our opportunity to remember it this year, with the influence of our votes at the elections.

Our executive board, with Brother C. C. Killen assisting and counseling, are laying plans for our own program of relief. Basing our opinion on the success that the work plan has met with in the eastern locals, we have every reason to believe that we can put it over successfully here.

Our unemployed list is boosted another 10 per cent with the completion of the new \$1,000,000 Professional Building. Brother E. C. Gracey was the foreman on the job and kept the boys busy. It is the most modern and up-to-date electrical job in the southwest.

P. J. TIERNEY.

#### L. U. NO. 734, NORFOLK, VA.

Editor:

Brother J. L. Harrell criticizes the writings of the press secretary of this local. Brother Harrell suggests that items concerning members of the local would be more appropriate.

Perhaps this is true and this month we will follow his suggestion by writing a brief biography of Brother Harrell.

This Brother was born at a very tender age and was musically inclined from birth. For the first several months of his life his musical offerings were entirely vocal, later he became addicted to the drum and traps. At an early age Brother Harrell became interested in gasoline propelled vehicles, sometimes driving a car for several days without an accident. Brother Harrell, a few days ago, expressed the desire to own an eight-cylinder car but was advised by a friend to first learn to drive one having only four cylinders.

Last month Brother Lester (King) Brady took a motor trip back to his home in Texas after an absence of several years.

Brother A. G. Spaulding, the official cartoonist of Local 734, commemorated the event with a poster showing Brady crossing the Texas border on two wheels, waving a ten-gallon hat with the population of Texas riding out to greet him, or something.

Heard some Japanese propaganda on the radio yesterday. An interlocutor asked leading questions which were answered by a Japanese to the everlasting credit of the Japanese government. These questions and answers were designed to convince the listeners that the Japs are a misunderstood and inoffensive nation.

However, whenever this nation places an order for early delivery of 500 bombing planes, the Japs will commit fewer acts leading to misunderstanding and will be in fact an inoffensive race.

SAUVAN.

#### L. U. NO. 1037, WINNIPEG, MAN.

Editor:

A slightly optimistic feeling seems to have spread through the issue of the January JOURNAL. The "Duke" has emerged from his den, following Christmas, as well as a few more writers who have been missing the last few months. We are still hanging on up here. As far as we are concerned in the city we are not doing too bad. The building trades are terrible. There is no building work of any description except the new auditorium the city is building. This, however, is only in the embryo stage; all we have seen is a hole in the ground and pouring concrete mixed by an electric mixer a mile away and hauled by huge trucks. This building is being erected with public money to create work for the unemployed, and the most of the work is being done by machinery. Nobody seems to know what is to be done with it after it is built. Brother McBride says it is to house the next convention of the I. B. E. W. in 1934, but if something don't start before then there won't be anybody alive to hold it, so what's the use? Our elevators are bursting with wheat. Thousands of box cars are standing on side tracks rotting. Locomotives all ready for the road are pushed on to long disused tracks. Ogilvie's flour mill, one of the largest mills in the world and full of modern machinery. Idle farmers can't get rid of their milk, butter, eggs, etc. In fact, the country is plugged with food and fuel and the warehouses packed with clothing of

(Continued on page 106)



# IN MEMORIAM



## William Record, L. U. No. 357

Whereas it has pleased the Almighty Providence in His wisdom to see fit to remove from our midst our Brother, William Record; and

Whereas the absence of Brother Record will create an irreparable loss to us and to our organization; and

Whereas we wish to extend our condolences to the family and friends of Brother Record; be it

Resolved, That we spread a copy of these resolutions on our minutes, that we send a copy to the International Office for publication in the official Journal, and send a copy to the bereaved family; be it further

Resolved, That we drape our local charter for a period of 30 days.

E. C. FISHER,  
A. E. LIEHERT,  
K. D. SHIRK,  
H. G. MALOT,  
Committee.

## Julius Langiel, L. U. No. 6

Whereas Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, has deemed it best to remove from this earth our esteemed and beloved Brother, Julius Langiel; and

Whereas the members of Local Union No. 6, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, deeply mourn his loss; therefore be it

Resolved, That in this hour of trial and sorrow we extend to his family and relatives our sincere sympathy and condolence; and be it further

Resolved, That the charter of Local Union No. 6 be draped for a period of 30 days out of respect for the memory of our late departed Brother, Julius Langiel; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of our late Brother, a copy be spread upon the minutes of Local Union No. 6 and that a copy be sent to the office of the International Brotherhood with the request that it be published in the official Journal.

ALBERT E. COHN,  
W. GIMMEL,  
FRED S. DESMOND,  
Committee.

CHAS. B. WEST,  
President L. U. No. 6, I. B. E. W.  
CHARLES J. FOEHN,  
Recording Secretary.

Local Union No. 6, I. B. E. W.  
Adopted at the meeting of Local Union No. 6, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Wednesday, January 20, 1932.

## Earl W. Smith, L. U. No. 743

Whereas Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, has removed from our midst our beloved Brother, Earl W. Smith.

Whereas by his death the local union has lost a true friend and a loyal union Brother; therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of Local Union No. 743 in meeting assembled extend to the bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his parents and a copy sent to our official Journal, and that our charter be draped for a period of 30 days.

MARK ED. SELTZER,  
Press Secretary.

## Archie Randall, L. U. No. 18

Whereas it is with deep regret and sorrow that Local No. 18, I. B. E. W., records the passing into the Great Beyond of our worthy Brother, Archie Randall, on December 31, 1931; therefore be it

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Journal for publication and a copy spread upon our minutes; and be it further

Resolved, That our charter be draped for a period of 30 days, and that we, the members of Local No. 18, being lawfully assembled, stand in silence for one minute in further tribute to his memory.

C. M. PERRY,  
EVAN HUGHES,  
A. A. HELVEY,  
Resolution Committee.

## Charles W. Madsen, L. U. No. 584

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God in His infinite wisdom to call from our midst on December 1 our respected and loyal Brother, Charles W. Madsen; and

Whereas Local Union No. 584, I. B. E. W., mourns the loss of a Brother who has been an untiring worker of long standing, a true friend and a faithful member; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of Local Union No. 584, in the spirit of brotherly love, pay tribute to his memory by expressing our sorrow at his loss and extend to the family of our late Brother and that our charter be draped for a period of 30 days.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread on the minutes of Local Union No. 584 and a copy be sent to the official Journal for publication, a copy be sent to the family of our late Brother and that our charter be draped for a period of 30 days.

GEORGE H. WAITE,  
H. G. GILLESPIE,  
G. C. GADORIO,  
Committee.

## J. T. Rundel, L. U. No. 18

Whereas it is with deep regret and sorrow that Local No. 18, I. B. E. W., records the passing into the Great Beyond of our worthy Brother, J. T. Rundel, on December 16, 1931; therefore be it

Resolved, That our sincere sympathy be extended to his bereaved family; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of the deceased, a copy to the Journal for publication and a copy spread upon our minutes; and be it further

Resolved, That our charter be draped for a period of 30 days, and that we, the members of Local No. 18, being lawfully assembled, stand in silence for one minute in further tribute to his memory.

L. P. MORGAN  
CHAS. O. SCHRANK  
HARRY M. WILLIAMS,  
Resolution Committee.

## James E. Lynch, L. U. No. 222

Whereas it has been the will of the Almighty God to take from our midst Brother James E. Lynch, a true and loyal member;

Resolved, That we, the members of Local Union No. 222, extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy to the family and relatives of our late departed Brother; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread in full upon the minutes of Local Union No. 222, I. B. E. W., a copy be sent to the International Office for publication in the official Journal and that a copy be sent to the family of our late Brother; and be it further

Resolved, That the charter of Local Union No. 222, I. B. E. W., be draped in mourning for a period of 30 days, in respect of the memory of our late Brother, James E. Lynch.

P. M. SALISBURY,  
W. G. FLAGG,  
H. E. YOUNG,  
Committee.

## J. Keegan, L. U. No. 125

Though we look forward in the realization that sooner or later we must each lay down the burden of this human span, yet the shock of parting strikes us anew as one by one, our friends and dear ones move onward into the infinite.

To Local Union No. 125 again has come the hour of loss as we record the passing of Brother J. Keegan. An esteemed friend and valued member, his absence will be deeply felt.

To those who held him most dear, Local Union No. 125 extends the sympathy of true friendship and the condolence of understanding hearts. We sorrow with you.

By action of the local this tribute shall be spread upon the minutes of our meeting, copies sent to our Journal for publication, and to the bereaved ones of our deceased Brother, and our charter shall be draped for 30 days in his memory.

R. L. CLUYTON,  
DALE B. SIGLER,  
W. S. LANK,  
Committee.

## George W. Droit, L. U. No. 6

Whereas it is with the deepest sorrow that we learn that our Brother, George W. Droit has been called from our midst by the Almighty God; and

Whereas the members of Local Union No. 6, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, feel the loss of our true and worthy Brother; therefore be it

Resolved, by the members of Local Union No. 6, I. B. E. W., in regular session assembled, That we extend to the family of our late departed Brother, George W. Droit, our heartfelt sympathy and condolence; and be it further

Resolved, That when we adjourn, we do so out of respect of the memory of our late Brother, George W. Droit; and be it further

Resolved, That the charter of Local Union No. 6, I. B. E. W., be draped for a period of 30 days; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of our late Brother, George W. Droit; a copy be spread in full upon the minutes of Local Union No. 6, a copy be sent to the office of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers with the request that they be published in the official Journal.

ALBERT E. COHN,  
W. GIMMEL,  
FRED S. DESMOND,  
Committee.

CHAS. B. WEST,  
President, L. U. No. 6, I. B. E. W.  
CHARLES J. FOEHN,  
Recording Secretary.

Local Union No. 6, I. B. E. W.  
The above resolutions were adopted at the regular meeting of Local Union No. 6, I. B. E. W., on Wednesday evening, January 20, 1932.

## J. W. McGrath, L. U. No. 6

Whereas Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom has deemed it best to remove from our midst, our dearly beloved Brother, J. W. McGrath; and

Whereas Brother J. W. McGrath had always proven himself to be a true and loyal member of the local union and took an active part in all matters pertaining to it; and

Whereas we, the members of Local Union No. 6, deeply mourn his loss; therefore be it

Resolved, by the members of Local Union No. 6 in regular session assembled, that we extend to the family of our late departed Brother, J. W. McGrath; our sincere sympathy and condolence; and be it further

Resolved, That the charter of Local Union No. 6 be draped for a period of 30 days out of respect for the memory of our late departed Brother, J. W. McGrath; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of our late Brother, J. W. McGrath, a copy be spread upon the minutes of Local Union No. 6 and that a copy be sent to the International Office with the request that they be published in the official Journal.

ALBERT E. COHN,  
W. GIMMEL,  
FRED S. DESMOND,  
Committee.

CHAS. B. WEST,  
President L. U. No. 6, I. B. E. W.  
CHARLES J. FOEHN,  
Recording Secretary.

L. U. No. 6, I. B. E. W.  
Adopted at the regular meeting of Local Union No. 6, I. B. E. W., on Wednesday, January 20, 1932.

## Patrick William Carvill, L. U. No. 53

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, to remove from our midst our esteemed friend and Brother, Patrick William Carvill;

Whereas in the death of Brother Carvill we suffer the loss of a true and faithful worker, whose noble qualities, kindly spirit and loyalty will always be remembered with deep affection by those who knew him best; therefore be it

Resolved, That Local Union No. 53, I. B. E. W., of Kansas City, Mo., extend its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family of our departed Brother; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of Brother Carvill, a copy sent to the International Office for publication and a copy spread on the minutes of Local Union No. 53 and our charter be draped in mourning for a period of 30 days in honor of his memory.

JOSEPH CLOUGHLEY,  
J. E. FARRAR,  
S. A. MOONEY,  
Committee.

**John Kimant, L. U. No. 794**

Whereas this local has again sustained the loss of an esteemed and faithful member, through the most untimely and regrettable passing of our worthy Brother, John Kimant; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the officers and members of Local Union No. 794, do hereby extend our sympathy to the bereaved wife of our departed Brother; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Mrs. Kimant, and a copy be spread upon the minutes of Local No. 794 and that a copy be sent to the Electrical Workers Journal for publication; and be it further

Resolved, That our charter be draped for a period of 30 days.

**LOUIS GILLES,  
FRANK WOLF,  
DEMPSEY K. EMONS,  
Committee.**

**Walter Borgending, L. U. No. 212**

Whereas we, as members of Local Union No. 212, I. B. E. W., deeply regret the passing from our midst of Brother Walter Borgending on January 8, 1932; and

Whereas in his fellowship we have recognized him as a true and loyal member; unselfish and always ready to share the responsibilities of the Brotherhood; therefore be it

Resolved, That we extend our most sincere sympathy to his immediate family, relatives and friends, in their hour of bereavement; and be it further

Resolved, That we drape our charter for a period of 30 days in due respect to his memory, and a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family, a copy be retained by Local Union No. 212 and a copy be forwarded to the International Office for publication in our official Journal.

**COMMITTEE,  
L. U. No. 212.**

**William P. Mayer, L. U. No. 494**

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God, in His divine wisdom to take from our midst our worthy Brother, William P. Mayer; and

Whereas we, as members of Local Union No. 494, I. B. E. W., deeply mourn our loss and extend our heartfelt sympathy to his bereaved family in their hour of sorrow; therefore be it

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of our deceased Brother, a copy to be spread on the minutes of our Local Union No. 494, and a copy be sent to the official Journal of our Brotherhood for publication.

**CHAS. PETERSON,  
E. L. PLEHR,  
ARTHUR C. SCHROEDER,  
Sick Committee.**

**A. C. Kinder, L. U. No. 18**

Whereas it is with deep regret and sorrow that Local No. 18, I. B. E. W., records the passing into the Great Beyond of our worthy Brother, A. C. Kinder, on January 3, 1932; therefore be it

Resolved, That our sincere sympathy be extended to his bereaved family; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of the deceased, a copy to the Journal for publication and a copy spread upon our minutes; and be it further

Resolved, That our charter be draped for a period of 30 days, and that we, the members of Local No. 18, being lawfully assembled, stand in silence for one minute in further tribute to his memory.

**C. M. PERRY,  
EVAN HUGHES,  
A. A. HELVEY,  
Resolution Committee.**

**Anthony Bruck, L. U. No. 52**

It is with deepest sorrow and regret that we, the members of Local Union No. 52, mourn the death of our worthy Brother, Anthony Bruck;

Whereas we wish to extend to his family and relatives our sincere and deepest sympathy in this very sad hour to them and pray that God, in His infinite goodness, may help them to bear the burden placed upon them; therefore be it

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread on the minutes of our local union, a copy be sent to the bereaved family, and a copy be sent to the official Journal for publication.

**J. J. GILLIGAN,  
Recording Secretary.**

**DEATH CLAIMS PAID FROM JANUARY 1 TO AND INCLUDING JANUARY 31, 1932**

L. L. No.	Name	Amount
I.O. 134	H. Caldwell	\$1,000.00
52	A. Kennedy	1,000.00
3	B. Bruck	1,000.00
205	D. D. Scanlon	1,000.00
	Thomas Foley	300.00
I.O. 209	W. H. Nicke	1,000.00
103	Ray Murphy	1,000.00
134	D. Coffey	1,000.00
I.O. 125	H. Vedel	1,000.00
504	R. A. Hambley	1,000.00
38	H. E. Flaugher	1,000.00
53	J. F. Keegan	1,000.00
60	Frank Victor	1,000.00
16	P. W. Carvill	475.00
	C. F. Bunker	300.00
I.O. 16	Frank Smith	1,000.00
I.O. 134	J. J. Bailey	1,000.00
9	F. W. Wdzieckowski	1,000.00
494	F. C. Marth	1,000.00
9	William P. Mayer	1,000.00
17	Ed. Lutchinger	1,000.00
5	E. L. Enzor	1,000.00
134	Andrew Shank	1,000.00
134	J. H. Hilliger	1,000.00
429	C. De Glopner	1,000.00
212	W. F. Bogerding	1,000.00
6	Julius J. Langiel	825.00
134	C. J. McHale	1,000.00
794	John Kimant	1,000.00
I.O. 6	James E. Lynch	650.00
18	G. W. Droit	1,000.00
103	A. Randall	300.00
	A. F. Handly	1,000.00

Death claims 1/1/32 to 1/31/32 \$29,850.00

Death claims previously paid 2,537,236.10

Total claims paid \$2,567,086.10

**RADIO**

(Continued from page 85)

and is reflected into the microphone. The parabolic microphone greatly enhances the broadcasting of outdoor events and large orchestras. One was installed in the Yankee Stadium this past autumn and used at football games. The cheering of the teams, which previously sounded weak, thin and far-away at best, now comes in with full volume and timbre, since the microphone, installed at the balcony level, may be focused on any spot. And when focused on the ball at the kick-off, the parabolic "mike," which is four times as sensitive as the ordinary type, permits the hearing of the thud as the kicker's shoe meets the ball.

A parabolic microphone was installed in the Metropolitan Opera House in New York and another in the Philadelphia Academy of Music, for symphonic broadcasts. The music is blended before entering the microphone and the microphonic differences of various instruments, which previously distorted the total effect, is eliminated. Studio programs can be acoustically controlled by means of the parabolic microphone.

International programs have been heard more clearly, with less distortion, fading or breakdown than ever before. The public has been pleasantly aware of this. The reason has not been so clear. One of the great networks has made an intensive study of international broadcasting, for the past three years, with the co-operation of foreign stations, weather bureaus and observatories. Daily two way tests, in light and darkness, with careful analyses

of time of day, weather and light conditions, sun spots and magnetic storm, has led to the formulation of generalities on which predictions of radio conditions can be made from two to three weeks in advance with approximately 90 per cent accuracy. Except for such events as Christmas services, the performance of which can be given only at a particular time, it is now possible to predict radio conditions for transoceanic broadcasts and arrange the performances at the most propitious hours of the most likely day within a span of several weeks. International programs can be booked with great certainty of reception. Much program material that would refuse to broadcast except under favorable conditions of radio reception are thereby made available, as evidenced by the recent transoceanic programs.

**Radio City Climbs**

Radio City, that seemingly fantastic dream which is actually under construction, although conceived previous to 1931, was actually undertaken in a material way during the year. The property on which this center of entertainment and culture is to stand, three square blocks in the heart of New York City, was bought, the existing building demolished, the foundations dug in 1931. This monument to entertainment in all its forms and to the integration of the electrical and electronic sciences in the service of communication and the dissemination of culture will be a milestone in more than one field.

The engineering advances reviewed: synchronization, wide frequency range wire lines, phase correctors, parabolic microphone and trans-oceanic studies, mark the high lights of the year's engineering accomplishments in broadcasting. They have been accompanied by the installation of improved equipment in stations throughout the country and by stricter regulations by the Federal Radio Commission, requiring stations to keep on their assigned frequencies. Radio receivers have been improved with such new tubes as the pentode and variable mu. The new low prices of receivers has made it possible for almost every family to own one, more than one.

**BROTHERHOOD BACKS PUBLIC WORKS BILL**

(Continued from page 66)

Judge Wilkerson is to be elevated to only a lower court. He is not. He is being elevated to the very corridor to the U. S. Supreme Court. Those who hold dear the justice of the land, and who understand that internal decay is first apparent in miscarriages of the courts, will scan zealously the record of such a jurist as Judge Wilkerson."

**CHICAGO HAS UNION AMERICAN LEGION POST**

(Continued from page 77)

ready to assist anyone, anywhere, in forming new posts of this character.

"Organized Labor and the American Legion" over WCFL, Tuesday, December 15, by Paul G. Armstrong, Commander, Cook County Council.

To secure to each laborer the whole product of his labor, or as nearly as possible, is a worthy object of any good government.—Abraham Lincoln.

## A MEMBER WRITES



Here is an excerpt from a letter written by a member and enclosed with three applications:

".... I should have done this long ago as I think every Brother should patronize his own organization...."

Spoken like a man and appreciated by the Brotherhood. But WHY should you patronize "your own organization?"

1st: Because the Brotherhood has your interest at heart and has built a policy accordingly.

2nd: Because the Family Group is especially designed to fill your particular needs for insurance covering your family and relatives.

3rd: Because it is sound insurance at the lowest possible cost.

4th: Because the applications are so easy to complete, requiring no medical examination.

5th: Because it is limited to families and relatives of electrical workers.

6th: BECAUSE THE NECESSITY FOR INSURANCE IS AS INEVITABLE AS FATE ITSELF.

Insure every member of your family in

### THE FAMILY GROUP POLICY

Write us for applications and further information.

# APPLICATION FOR INSURANCE ELECTRICAL WORKERS' FAMILY POLICY

UNION COOPERATIVE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION,  
Washington, D. C.

I certify that I am the ..... of ..... a member  
(Give relationship)

of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union No. ...., and I hereby apply for.....  
units or \$..... life insurance, and will pay \$..... each.....  
(Year, half-year, quarter or month)

I certify that I have no impairment in my health or physical condition, and have no deformity, except.....

(State any exceptions)

Date of Birth ..... Occupation ..... Race .....  
(Month-Day-Year)

Birthplace ..... Sex .....

Beneficiary ..... Relationship .....  
(State full name and relationship of person to whom insurance is to be paid at your death)

Address of Beneficiary.....

My name is .....  
(Print your name in full—not initials. If married use own name, such as "Helen Smith" and not husband's name, as  
"Mrs. James Smith")

My address is .....  
(Street and number—City and State)

Date.....  
(Signature in full)

## QUESTIONS BELOW TO BE ANSWERED IF APPLICANT IS A MINOR

1. Father of Child.	Full Name	Birthplace
2. Mother of Child.	Birth Date	Occupation
	Full Name	Birthplace
3. Premiums will be paid by:	Birth Date	Occupation
	Name	
	Address	

(Signature of Parent or Guardian)

(The Union Cooperative Insurance Association reserves the right to reject any applicant for this insurance for any cause whatever and in case of rejection will return to the applicant the full amount of the payment forwarded with this application. The insurance will become effective on date issued by the Union Cooperative Insurance Association at its Home Office in Washington, D. C.)

**NOTE: Age limits, 1 to 50 years. Issued in units of \$250.00. Limit of insurance for any one person: Ages 1-5, inclusive—\$250.00. Ages 6-50, inclusive—\$500.00.**

**Cost per unit: If paid annually, \$3.60; Semi-annually, \$1.80; Quarterly, 90 cents; Monthly, 30 cents or "Penny a Day."**

Receipts issued for premium payments will show date next payment is due. No additional premium notices will be sent.

Make Checks Payable to  
**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD of ELECTRICAL WORKERS**  
G. M. Bugnizet

and Send with Application to International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Washington, D. C.

(Family Group Policy—Application Copyright, 1928, J. R. Biggs)



Cut Here

Cut Here

## ONLY FISCAL POLITICS CAN HALT PUBLIC WORKS

(Continued from page 61)

The strong arm of the state must be used to get results.

**One million homes in New York City alone are without proper bathing facilities.**

**Only one-half of American homes measure up to the minimum standard of health and decency.**

**Most tenements are unprovided with gas, heat and hot water.**

**Privacy for young children in millions of homes is unknown.**

**Electric lights are unknown in millions of homes.**

**Many houses in typical American cities—perhaps 33 per cent—are without sewers or city water.**

**Millions are housed in degrading, miserable country houses.**

**Contagious diseases are spread by housing "sores."**

So great is the need of bringing American housing up to decent standards that "Fortune," the ultra modern magazine of big business, devotes a long article to this subject in February. It admits that reclamation is a social problem. It computes the following table to show the need of modern homes in rural areas:

Percentage of farms equipped with (1930 census)—

	Running Water	Bath-rooms	Electricity
Connecticut	63	34	53
Kentucky	3	2	4
Massachusetts	75	43	63
North Dakota	7	3	8
Oregon	44	28	33
South Carolina	3	2	4

### Vast Housing Need Revealed

When opponents of a public works program assemble arguments against the plan, on the ground that unnecessary improvements will be made, he is shamefully blind to the shame of American cities. They are closing their eyes to the degradation of millions of citizens. They are, in the realist sense, unpatriotic.

If one-half the population is housed in houses below the minimum standard of decency, it would take approximately 65 billion dollars to reconstruct the slums on a decent basis. The assessed valuation of United States property is about 135 billion dollars. How trifling the five and one-half billion dollars provided by the La Follette Bill looks in the face of this fact.

The sum set aside, then, in any list of needed public works, and allocated to slum reclamation, is purely optional. It would take \$6,000,000,000 to house the citizens of New York City alone adequately.

Rural electrification presents another opportunity for vital federal aid. Private power companies require farmers

to pay in part for electric installation. Millions are unable to do this. It is estimated \$500,000,000 is needed for such needed extensions.

In short, apart from public roads and bridges, America has need for an unlimited building program.

## III. Fiscal Politics

Immediately after the passage of the bill creating the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, giving a dole of \$2,000,000,000 to bankers, the United States Chamber of Commerce issued a report opposing further use of public money for public works. This was in keeping with an earlier report issued by a sub-committee of the President's committee on unemployment.

This prevalent argument against public works is one never offered in case of the bankers' dole, namely, the United States has not got the money.

As has been pointed out by authorities, however, an appropriation of \$5,500,000,000 now for public works would not bring the national indebtedness up to the maximum it was in 1919 following the war.

The major opposition to a public works program comes from banking interests. They have "sold America short" on more than one occasion by exercising force. The force used is to demand balanced budgets from cities and states before loans are forthcoming. The federal government is not too large and too powerful to escape the lash. Detroit and New York have been handled. New York was forced to clip more than \$100,000,000 from the public works program by Wall Street.

An incensed public opinion has not yet crystallized. The counterswing of the pendulum has not yet occurred. Recently Senator Copeland, of New York, in a public address, summarized the rising public chorus of dismay and indignation.

"The pernicious influence of the hidden forces back of the Federal Reserve Board reach down into the humblest of banks. The legitimate uses of money by the small merchants, modest builders, business men and farmers, is made impossible.

"It seems to me no other term than hysteria is the one to apply to the state of mind controlling the banking world.

"But there is one place in the banking system where there is no hysteria. The men at the top were never more calm, deliberate and resourceful. They have seized upon their long-awaited opportunity. This is their day. Already they are exercising despotic rule. Unless the people are aroused there is no length to which the super-bankers may not go. We are in danger of a financial dictatorship. \* \* \*

"We stand at the parting of the ways. We may abdicate, we may run up the white flag and surrender because we are whipped, or we may appeal to the great multitude of our citizens, state the case and leave it to the voters to decide who shall be master in America." He accused the "super-bankers," the "banksters," of responsibility in the failure of thousands of small banks and of attempting to manage cities when

their "mismanagement" of the railroads had brought the latter to the present unsatisfactory financial state. "We should give warning to them that the popular uprisings of our early history will be repeated if they continue their present course."

"All these evils could be made to disappear overnight," he went on. "To broaden, within safe limits, the discounting base of the Federal Reserve System would end the schemes and machinations of this small group of wilful men. A law authorizing the Federal Reserve to make eligible for discount and other uses federal, state and city bonds, as well as other securities of equal soundness—this law of few words would restore to the people the right to determine the people's policies and the right of the citizen to go forward in any legitimate enterprise in which he chooses to engage. The time has come when the Federal Reserve System must become more elastic in its administration."

The public works plan is more than a form of relief for the jobless. It is a rallying point for social-minded citizens everywhere.

## GROUP SICK INSURANCE SEEN AS HIGH COST CURE

(Continued from page 67)

situation is for physicians of all kinds to band together and co-operate with the hospitals in handling patients, since almost all high-cost illness requires hospital care. Let the hospital and its staff physicians each appoint a committee to establish jointly a satisfactory schedule of rates for specific services to patients of moderate means. Then let the patient be given whatever care he needs and a single bill for the service submitted by the hospital administrators. These administrators should first investigate the financial status of the patient and lower the charge to a sum within the patient's means when necessary. In this way it would be possible to give the patient an estimate in advance as to the approximate cost of treatment or probable maximum, thus relieving him from much of the present anxiety incurred. Moreover, much wasted time and needless expenditures to cover the overhead charges of more than one doctor would be eliminated. The doctors also gain under such a system; for while their fees would be moderate, they would be decidedly more certain of coming in. A patient will make a much greater effort to pay his sickness bills, if he has only one to pay and knows beforehand that it will not be beyond his means.

### Extraordinary Ills, the Problem

It is a recognized fact that the larger the income of a family is, the more the family spends in a year upon care of health. Families with only moderate means are usually able to meet the cost of a normal amount of illness. It is when high cost sickness, requiring a surgical operation, expensive treatment and hospital care occurs that they must either face a difficult if not impossible burden or accept the sting of charity.

The poor, on the other hand, are hard put to care even for the usual run of colds and minor ailments. And when grandpa needs new teeth, mother has another baby or little Johnny's tonsils must come out, there plainly is no surplus with which to foot the bill; but if daddy slips and breaks a leg, it is a major catastrophe, because his wages are the mainstay of the family.

If a family must accept medical charity, some one must pay. The usual ways to pay are by private philanthropy and public taxation. Mr. Davis, however, has a better suggestion to offer, according to which the burden of sickness bills may be lightened or entirely lifted, even for those of moderate means or less. The idea is far from being new; it is simply to regard illness as fire, theft, death or other adverse contingency and apply the principle of insurance to it. In this manner the risk of incurring sickness bills may be spread over a large group of normally healthy people, and the payments distributed evenly over a long period of time rather than be allowed to come all at once in an unexpected lump. A small premium of from \$8 to \$15 a year, many times less than what the average family, however poor, pays to doctors and druggists, should be, in Mr. Davis' opinion, sufficient for a policy which would cover the cost of all necessary medical service including hospital and physician's fees.

#### **Small Premiums Suggested**

Individual sickness insurance policies have long been in existence. These, however, tend to be taken out by the sickly, and accordingly the rates are high. If, however, policies were to be taken out, not by individuals, but by normally healthy groups—labor unions, church organizations, social clubs of one sort or another—there would be no necessity for these excessive rates. Small sums pooled together regularly by many over a period of time would go a long way toward alleviating the financial trials which at present arise from ill health. Moreover, the family would know at the beginning of the year just how much would be needed for illness during that year. Sickness would become a budgetable expense.

Mr. Davis strongly advocates local experimental group policies of this type. In England, France and Germany, they not only exist but are compulsory for those below a certain income level. Such insurance protects the patient and the physician alike. In Europe abuse of the insurance by unnecessary calling of doctors is avoided by a system of paying, not the full cost of medical attention, but 85 per cent of it, the patient paying the remaining 15 per cent himself.

Other countries have tried the system and found that it works successfully. Certainly their experience with it and existing conditions here make it a matter deserving more than just our passing consideration. If we were to follow the suggestions Mr. Davis makes, we would quickly realize the benefits resulting from a unified bill, insurance against the risk of incurring a bill, the possibil-

ity of budgeting sickness costs, and the stabilization of fees with assured remuneration to both doctors and hospitals.

#### **BASE-PLAN OF WORK PLAN WIDELY ACCEPTED**

(Continued from page 72)

Work Plan has been instrumental in signing up one of the largest non-union shops in the city. C. H. Huttanus, business manager, writes: "Our committee which has been meeting with the contractors and of which I am a member, has, in co-operation with them, outlined a plan of advertising in the daily papers whereby we hope, by presentation of facts and cuts of accidents which have caused loss of life and property due to poor wiring, to drive home the idea that cheap wiring is expensive in the long run—thereby causing them to have their electrical work placed in a safe condition."

Away up in Adirondack Mountains, at Saranac Lake, a vigorous committee has been set up to make the Co-operative Work Plan a reality. Here again the organization of contractors was made as a result of this campaign of the local. Affiliation with the Electrical Guild of North America was effected.

The New Orleans Daily Journal of Commerce has given considerable publicity to the Co-operative Work Plan. The number for January 12, 1932, quotes in full the recent article from the ELECTRICAL WORKERS JOURNAL describing the program of modernization work under the inspiration of the union and the Guild. The American Builder, a Chicago publication, also has given wide publicity to our plan. "Electrical Contracting," the official organ of the Electragists' International, has carried on an intelligent campaign for modernization. A. Penn Denton, an official of the National Electric Manufacturers Association, says in a recent number:

"I shall discuss with you only the possibilities of developing the residential wiring market, as I am convinced that in this direction must our industry turn for immediate relief from the present depression. Now considering these 20,000,000 wired homes I have referred to, let us assume that there is needed in each home additional outlets, circuits, feeder and service capacity which will cost approximately \$50.00 per home. This makes a total possible business of \$1,000,000,000 for wiring alone. Add to this as a conservative figure an additional \$100 per home for electric heating and cooking devices, comfort and pleasure-making appliances and radio and you increase your potential market by \$2,000,000,000, a total of three billion dollars. Let us set as our goal a five-year program in which this large volume of business will be sold, and it gives us an annual business of \$600,000,000.

"You say this is impossible, impractical, and I will agree to cut the quota right in two. We still have the enormous business volume of \$300,000,000 per year made available to all groups of our industry through the simple process of the contractors unlocking this

great market which is almost begging us to release."

#### **Analyzing the Market**

"Electrical Contracting" has also analyzed the appliance market, as follows:

Commodity	The Wiring Market
Electric ranges	\$8,550,000
Electric refrigeration	11,000,000
Farm electrification	22,500,000
Time switches	2,000,000
Sun lamps	9,355,000*
Outdoor lighting	12,310,000
Ventilating fans	1,875,000†
Public address	2,500,000
Electric eye	can not be estimated
Reinspection	10,000,000
Air conditioning	3,000,000
Air cooling	100,000
Residential relighting	can not be estimated
Radio wiring	3,250,000
Modernization, commercial	7,500,000
Modernization, industrial	can not be estimated
Rewiring, residential	over 1,000,000
Replacing factory electricians	1,500,000†
Specialties	can not be estimated
Rate engineering	can not be estimated
Electric clocks	5,000,000

\*9,355,000 (includes cost of unit).

†1,875,000 (exclusive of fans).

†1,500,000 for each 1,000 factory electricians replaced.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

(Continued from page 100)

every description. Hides of all kinds are a drug on the market. Nobody wants to buy them and thousands of people are starving. They have no work and therefore no money. We have the wealthiest country in the world. We have food, fuel and clothing of the best and yet whole families are hungry, cold, and in rags. I saw some boys last Saturday, January 23, playing in the deep snow with the thermometer around zero with old boots without any soles. What a shame! Our boasted modern civilization! Now the Manitoba pulp mill at Pine Falls is to be shut down. This is one of the biggest users of power and that will revert back, shutting down a power plant. Settlers who have been clearing land and selling pulpwood will be deprived of a living and the worms and insects will get the pulpwood to destroy. That is the method of our modern capitalistic system. Destroy it, burn it, let vermin live in plenty. Feed the rats with good food and let the moths eat up the clothing—but don't sell it for a cent less and on no account give it away.

Let them starve. The poorer they are, and the colder they are, the less money they will be willing to work for. Have we progressed? Sometimes I have my doubts. It seems to me that the same conditions existed away back in the times of Dickens when "Oliver Twist" had the nerve to ask for more soup in the poorhouse. We have progressed in some things, admitted, but the rich can have all and the poor must starve. That is the same today as 200 years ago and that law seems to be as immutable as the old laws of the Medes and Persians. I'd better quit before I say too much and the editorial pencil gets busy, so in the words of Lowell Thomas, "So long until tomorrow." (Next month.)

IRVINE.

## DAIRY PLANT FINDS UNION MAINTENANCE PAYS

(Continued from page 75)

is a great deal more reliable than the oil dashpot commonly used for this purpose. A very convenient arrangement for indicating on the switchboard in the engine room the level of the water in the overhead tank was built by using a Sundt multiple contact float switch, with each point being wired to one of a series of indicating bullseye lamps, one at each three foot level. Seven points are required, the bullseye lamps being arranged in a vertical row with the different levels marked on a nameplate alongside.

### Moisture Guarded

Throughout the plant, every precaution was taken to prevent any condensation collecting inside of motors, conduits or fittings. This condensation causes more trouble in the electrical equipment than drip or splash, and we have plenty of that, too. Every conduit is pitched slightly, to drain, the lowest point being a fitting with holes drilled in them. We also find it necessary to have holes drilled in the bottom of all fully enclosed motor frames. These holes serve as breather openings which is fully as important as drain holes.

The lighting equipment is more or less the conventional type, using R. L. M.'s, enclosing globes or glasteels as necessary, except for the main room, office and visitors room. This main room is 65' x 140' with a 24' ceiling and is lighted to nine-foot candles intensity at the working level by means of 42 high bay units of the prismatic type in 300 watt size suspended in the loft above and shining down through windows or lenses set flush with the ceiling and 20" in diameter. These are cleared and re-lamped from the floored loft above so that this item of maintenance is very simple indeed. The office and visitors room are lighted by means of 200 watt indirect wall urns, which illumination is, of course, almost shadowless. The south side or front of the plant is flood lighted with eleven 500 watt Crouse Hinds flood lights, controlled by a G. E. five-amp. time switch operating the pilot circuit of a 60-amp. contactor.

### Class A Union Craftsmen

This company does all of its own engineering in all branches except architectural. In the electrical branch we do the construction work also, as well as the maintenance. We employ a crew of Class A union electricians the year round, who take care of every detail of this work in both country and city plants. We have found this to be good practice, as it goes without saying that men working on the same class of work all the time understand the conditions and requirements a good deal better than those who go from one class of work to another continually. In addition, many very valuable devices especi-

ally required for our line of work have been developed. All of our plants get a thorough electrical inspection by one of our maintenance electricians every three months and defects are corrected, or repairs are made at once. This inspection, and the very close check we keep upon motor overload protection has reduced our motor failures about 80 per cent in the past seven or eight years and our plant interruptions to practically nothing.

This River Forest plant is open for inspection, and visitors are welcome every day. Arrangements will gladly be made for special attention to groups, particularly those interested in dairy, electrical, or refrigeration engineering.

## INDUSTRY SCANNED BY CRITIC FROM WITHIN

(Continued from page 69)

only explain these matters in non-technical terms to all concerned and ask them for their co-operation in all specific cases."

### Utilities Short-Sighted

The critic thinks the utilities are short-sighted in not co-operating with the contractor. The utilities are interested in appliances, but forget that wiring also builds load. "More adequate wiring brings in more revenue because more current is consumed. The more residential current sold per hour, the higher the rate of net profit, especially where there is an excess of generating capacity."

Thales drives home his point.

"To give a further idea of the relative importance of K. W. H. sales, let me quote Mr. Arthur Huntington, a well known utility executive, a prominent engineer and an authority on utility economics. He says:

"It is a strange thing to me that salesmen who make their living by selling, have let the engineers, notoriously poor salesmen, so outsell them as to their respective values in the public utility field. The sales force has done more to reduce the cost of service in the utility field than has all of the engineering contributions combined. Of course, this statement recognizes that the engineer has given to the salesman good service to sell to the public.

"The engineer has appropriated to himself nearly all of the credit for the vast reduction in the cost of producing utility commodities, and the salesman has let him have it with the results that the engineer has been, and is being given millions to buy new equipment with which to create further economies, whereas the salesmen are accepting small budgets and obscure recognition and are seemingly glad to get them.

"Such a condition is not justified. Allow me to repeat that the developer of new business has produced many times more in the way of cost reductions than has the engineer."

And again, he burns up the wires with his logic.

"The largest item in rendering service to rural consumers is carrying charges on the transmission line due to the few consumers per mile. The whole industry has turned its engineers loose with instruction to come to the rescue by designing a

cheap line. Lines have been designed to put into service varying in type from the poorest carrying iron wire, to lines of the best type. Lines costing from \$200 per mile and those costing \$2,000 have been built.

"By and large the engineer has reduced the cost of a good line about \$200 per mile at a saving in carrying charge about \$36 per year per mile of line.

"The sale of one small refrigerator to any customer on this mile of line will bring an income sufficient to equal this saving, and each added range will add enough of income to care for two miles of saving."

### Five Year Plan

The critic closes with a plea for a planned industry. He speaks of a Five Year Plan. He wants the utilities to act.

"Is the electrical industry going to clean its own house, or is it going to wait until the so-called economist will pass laws to make it prosperous by legislation?

"We know that there is a big profitable job staring us in the face; we know the tremendous size of the job; we know it would be folly to tackle such a tremendous job with a teaspoon and that we need a steam shovel, so why not get one big enough so that we can do the job justice?

"Tooling up for this job means adequate financing, man power and management. The only group in the industry capable and able to finance the task are utilities; there is no secret about that. That it will pay them well to do so, is an established fact. How to finance the undertaking is simply a utility question of policy. The best way that the other groups can contribute to this program, as has also been demonstrated in the past, is by intelligent and efficient co-operation in carrying out and executing the plans laid out by the general staff."

He believes that \$10,000,000 a year should be set aside to educate the public in modernizing their homes. This \$10,000,000 so spent will bring in an enormous return to the utility, the contractor, and the manufacturer, and put 20,000 electrical workers to work.

The Five Year Plan is to be controlled by a national industry-market-development committee of 11 members—six appointed by the utilities, five from each of the other branches including labor.

That is not all, Thales pleads for the establishment of "Industry, Market and Technological Research Bureau" to be named after the great patron saint of the industry, Edison.

Thales has done a good job. He can be proud of his out-spoken, socially-minded brochure. "A Message from Thales" belongs to the better type of trade association literature. It is thoughtful, co-operative, unafraid. It belongs to the new day in the electrical industry, and let us hope it will hasten the new day's coming. Like a movie scenario writer, may Thales now write "Then Came the Dawn."

"A Message from Thales" can be had from P. O. Box 187, Pennsylvania Avenue Station, Washington, D. C., for 50 cents.)

### EAGLE, FORGOTTEN; ALTGELD; LABOR CHAMPION

(Continued from page 76)

to endeavor with all that was in him to remedy the conditions that repeated for others the things he himself had suffered.

#### Fought His Own Way

He went to school against his father's opposition, at 17 enlisted in the Union Army, taught school and studied law, married after 10 years courtship, built up a fairly lucrative law practice and made some money in real estate in Chicago. In 1886 he was elected to a judgeship, which office he held for five years.

The year after his resignation he was nominated for governor of Illinois on the Democratic ticket, and in that rock-ribbed Republican state was elected by 23,000 majority in the Democratic landslide of 1892.

Thus he stands at 45, a man of little outward grace or charm, shy, made serious by hardship, but not embittered, filled indeed with a strange and beautiful sympathy with his fellows and a desire to make their lot easier than his own; a demonstration as genuine as Lincoln's of what America through inspiration and opportunity could produce.

Everyone realized when Altgeld took office that he had a stormy four years before him. No one guessed from what quarter that storm would burst. In 1886 the Haymarket riot had taken place in Chicago, in which a bomb had been exploded and seven policemen killed. Eight men were arrested, tried and found guilty. One committed suicide, four were hanged, and three remained in prison when Governor Altgeld took office.

#### The Billys' Harvest

There was already a strong feeling in the community in favor of pardoning the three prisoners. The red hysteria had died down. It was generally recognized among sensible people that there had been no anarchist plot. It was simply a meeting to protest the lockout at the McCormick Harvester plant. It was remembered that the mayor after addressing the meeting had gone out of his way to advise the police that the meeting was entirely orderly. "It became a pastime for squads of mounted police, or detachments in close formation, to disperse with the billy any gathering of workingmen. The billy was an impartial instrument; men, women and children alike, composed its harvest." The police charged on the dispersing crowd and the bomb was thrown. The men arrested had no proved connection with the bomb thrower, who remained undetected.

There is little doubt that if Governor Altgeld had paroled or even pardoned the so-called "anarchists" as an act of clemency his action would have met with little criticism. The governor, however, held that if they were guilty he had no right to pardon them, and with German thoroughness he made a complete re-examination of the case. He dug up the

huge packing cases containing the records of the case, forgotten, like so many other records of injustice.

During the first months of his administration he studied and brooded over this notable instance of injustice and he had come to his decision. He knew the cost to him; he had just come to the governorship of his state, and to the leadership of his party, after 30 years of defeat, and he realized what powerful interests would be frightened and offended if he were to turn three forgotten men out of prison.

#### Mob Frenzy as Judge

It mattered not that most of the thoughtful men in Illinois would tell you that the "anarchists" had been improperly convicted, that they were innocent of the murder of which they were accused, but that they were not even anarchists; it was simply that the mob had convicted them in one of the strangest frenzies of fear that ever distracted a whole community, a case which all the psychologists of all the universities in the world might have tried, without getting at the truth of it—much less a jury in a criminal court.

Altgeld published his findings in a statement which charged the people of Illinois with murder through their courts, and marked the trial judge, Joseph E. Gary, as their guilty tool. Undoubtedly Altgeld knew he would lose his popularity by this action, but he could hardly have realized how completely he was sacrificing reputation, influence and power for service. He did not consider that of all things the most inconceivable is that a sovereign people should confess itself wrong or bring forth any evidence of repentance. Nor did he realize that with logic that is familiar to us today, the American people, including professing Christians, patriots and reformers, would assume that because he asked for justice, he was himself an anarchist, potentially guilty of all the unproved crimes laid against the men whose cause he pleaded. In any case he would have defied American psychology and told the truth.

The pardon of the "anarchists" determined the ground on which Governor Altgeld fought the remaining political battles of his career. The first of these was with President Cleveland over the use of the power of the federal government to suppress the railroad strike of 1894. This was a sympathetic strike of the railway union to prevent the hauling of Pullman cars so long as the Pullman Company refused a settlement with its employees.

#### How Myths Are Made

Governor Altgeld sent militia promptly wherever disorder occurred, and held that the state authorities were able to control the situation. President Cleveland ordered United States troops to Chicago where violence immediately broke out. Altgeld's protests to Cleveland were dismissed contemptuously, and the myth took form, of Cleveland, the

lion-hearted defender of law and order, and Altgeld, the treacherous anarchist.

More serious than the sending of United States troops, however, was the appointment of Edwin Walker, attorney for the St. Paul Railroad, as special attorney for the United States. The plan was conceived of attaching sleepers to the mail trains, and so having the government on their side against the strikers. It might be a negligible offense to prevent a passenger train from being moved, but who would dare to interfere with the United States mail? Treason, you know! And by looking into the pages of history you will find business and gold always investing themselves thus with the cloak of sovereignty. A wide sweeping injunction was granted in the federal courts against the officers of the American Railway Union—the parent of a whole brood of judicial interventions against striking workmen which culminated in Judge Wilkerson's injunction against the shopmen in 1922.

Brand Whitlock, ambassador to Belgium in the World War, wrote in his famous book, "Forty Years of It," the story of his connection with politics and city governments and paid tribute to Altgeld as one of the greatest men he had met in public life. Referring to those times he says, "Politics in those days—and not alone in those days either—were mean. Politics were almost personal, there was then no conception of them as related to public life. Generally, the moral atmosphere of politics was foul and heavy with the foulness of all the debauchery that is inseparable from privilege. The personnel of politics was generally low; and in the city councils and state legislatures there was a cynical contempt of all the finer sentiments; there was a positive scorn of the virtues. The alliance between the lobbyists and the lawyers of the great corporation interests on the one hand, and the managers of both the great political parties on the other, was a fact, the worst feature of which was that no one seemed to care."

Altgeld was one of the forerunners of all time; and, in accordance with the universal law of human nature, it was his fate to be misunderstood and ridiculed and hated, even by his own party.

He was far in the van in most ways so far that it was impossible for his own party to follow him.

#### His, a Shadow of a New Day

It did not follow him in his opposition to a bill which passed the general assembly to permit the consolidation of gas companies in Chicago. The machines of the two parties were working well together in the legislatures. When the governor vetoed their evil measure, this bipartisan machine sought to pass it over his veto. Nor did they follow him in his great battles with monopolies which sought to secure from the legislatures long term franchises for the Chicago street railways.

Despite opposition, Altgeld, during his administration left a record unsurpassed

in championing industrial legislation and civil service reforms. At the Chicago convention in 1896 he was the leading figure and chief spokesman of his party. And had he not been ineligible to the presidency by reason of foreign birth, he would have become the choice of the convention instead of Bryan.

All through his life Altgeld faced popular hysteria, that hysteria which is more dangerous to our democracy than all the plottings of desperate radicals, and he did what he thought was right in spite of it. He went out of office a man broken in reputation, in fortune, in health. He died in 1902. On the day of his death he argued all day long in the federal courts of Chicago for the cabin men who were excluded from the place at one of the railway stations where they sought passengers. Then he went by train to Joliet to make a speech. For what, do you suppose? For the Boers, of South Africa, struggling for independence. He was ill; he was weary; he was impoverished; but his soul was unbeaten. These were the last words of that speech: "Wrong may seem to triumph. Right may seem to be defeated. But the gravitation of eternal justice is toward the throne of God. Any political institution which is to endure must plumb with that line of justice." So saying, he staggered to the wings of the stage and died.

He had lived a thousand years in the little more than a brief half century that had been allotted to him; "neither principalities nor powers nor high nor low, nor poverty nor illness, nor defeat nor dishonor had stayed his tireless and devoted steps along the hard road that he had traveled."

#### BOULDER DAM "WHITEWASH"

##### IGNORES CRITICISM

(Continued from page 70)

in the ground something like a block from the river, where the Colorado seeps through. Here is where those who don't (and most of them can't) buy Las Vegas water dip their supply from. The water is almost the color and texture of rich cocoa. 'Rag City' boasts no sanitary facilities, other than two old-fashioned out-houses which are patronized by everybody."

**C. M. Feider, official investigator for I. B. E. W., Electrical Workers' Journal, May, 1931.**

"My latest interview with the chief of police of Las Vegas revealed that the police department is shipping out of town to the state line, a distance of some 30 miles, by motor trucks and otherwise, from 100 to 200 unemployed each week; that the pool halls and gambling places are permitting the unemployed to lounge around in their places at night to keep out of the weather. The highways going into Las Vegas are fairly well covered with idle men going and returning \* \* \* in the hope of picking up something to do."

**Wooster Taylor, Washington Herald, June 10, 1931.**

"Twenty-five speakeasies in Las Vegas alone were raided.

"The townspeople smile and point to

fresh-worn paths around to the back doors of places 'closed tight' by the raiders. One considerate proprietor has boldly built a boardwalk to the rear of his establishment.

"The famous raid is regarded here as a political gesture. \* \* \* The 'noble experiment' of prohibition sits none too lightly on the shirt-sleeved populace. They like their likker raw and their women companionable, and they don't care who knows it."

**Rev. Dr. Worth M. Tippy, Information Service, Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, October 17, 1931.**

"As yet no arrangements have been made at Boulder City for schools. A census revealed 102 children of school age at Boulder City the first of September."

**The New Leader, August, 1931.**

"Lunches are put up in paper sacks or tin boxes and carried out to the workers. Because of the heat and the poor quality of the food, these lunches quickly decompose and become putrid. There have been hundreds of cases of dysentery and other diseases."

**Victor Castle, mentioned above.**

"While I was there [at the mess house of Construction Camp B] two men were brought in who had passed out completely. One, a commissary clerk, collapsed in his tent after he had finished work and had convulsions. There was no doctor. Buckets of ice water were thrown on him. This was the only medical service he got, and we, the workers, gave it to him. He was taken into town later in a machine owned by a worker; we don't know whether he lived or not. From his condition I doubt it. The other man went under on the job. We threw more ice water on him. It was the only thing we knew to do, and the only thing we could do without medical advice or aid. \* \* \*

"I am told that down at the dam site there is no medical or surgical help available, no hospital facilities, no first aid equipment, no stretchers, no ambulances, nothing to protect the lives of the workers.

"So I quit. I would rather mope on the main stem than work in a temperature around 140 for \$2 a day, and my meals, and then have to pay \$1.50 a month for insurance—particularly when the insurance companies specifically exempt the greatest element of danger, heat prostration. [Note: 13 of the first 26 deaths at the dam were the result of prostration.]

**C. M. Feider, investigator for I. B. E. W., official report for International Vice President H. P. Brigaerts, August 19, 1931, later forwarded to Wm. Green, president of the A. F. of L.**

"I want to relate the experience of a member of the I. B. E. W. who is considered to be one of the most efficient electrical workers on the Hoover Dam project and who has personally complained to me: That the trucks of the Six Companies would pick him up at 6:15 a. m. in the bunk house; go to the warehouse, load material and arrive on the job at 7:30 a. m. at which time the day's work would start. After having worked eight hours, the delivery of the men to their respective bunkhouses would take enough time to make 11 hours from bunkhouse to bunkhouse, for which he received the munificent sum of \$6 for the actual eight hours on the job, with \$1.60 taken out for subsistence and hospital fee. This same man as a result

of overwork and heat, became unconscious on July 30, at which time Mr. Midau, foreman in charge, revived him by pouring water on him, and then discharged him on the following Saturday despite the fact that he was the oldest man in point of service on the job."

**The New Leader, August, 1931.**

"They are charged \$2 a day for such miserable board and lodging as they get, 10 cents per day for hospital, and a poll tax of \$5 if they work 10 days. Pay is mostly in scrip so that the men must purchase their needs at a company store which charges exorbitant prices. No opposition stores are permitted at the dam site."

**C. F. Grow, official investigator for the International Association of Machinists, quoted above.**

"The Six Companies have just notified the men that hereafter they will pay them only once a month; they had been paid twice a month up to now; this will entail a great hardship on these workers, as most of them are broke when coming to work, and others go broke on the job."

**Judson King, The New Republic, June 24, 1931.**

"In all departments skilled labor is paid on an average of \$2 per day lower than the scale for similar work now paid in the Southwest. Linemen work for 75 cents per hour and as many helpers as possible are forced in to do journeyman work."

**C. M. Feider, investigator for I. B. E. W., official report to International Secretary G. M. Bugnizet, April 4, 1931.**

"Mr. Crowe [general superintendent of construction for the Six Companies, Inc.], who is generally referred to as 'Hurry Up Crowe,' apparently feels the importance of his position and gave me just one minute in which to state my case. \* \* \* He specifically declined to arrange for an interview between a committee representing organized labor and himself on the grounds that the company had nothing to discuss and that so far as giving any employment to our people there was no possible hope. \* \* \* Mr. Lawler [general manager for Six Companies] also stated that he could not see where we could accomplish anything by further conferences, reiterating Mr. Crowe's statement that they had to take care of their own former employees and in addition that they had to satisfy Senators, Congressmen and others who were making demands on them to place their friends and constituents on the job. \* \* \*

"While interviewing Mr. Crowe, in response to a question by me whether he intended to continue the low wages now paid, he replied by saying: 'Hell, we have no wage scale.' \* \* \*

"Every activity on the ground in the vicinity of the Boulder Dam project indicates that advantage is being taken of the depression on the surplus number of men begging for work."

**Central Trades Council of Las Vegas, Nev., telegraphic protest to A. F. of L. on August 11, 1931, forwarded to Secretary of Labor Doak.**

"A condition of unrest and resentment has been created thereby [low wages] among the workers. Although the Six Companies raised the pay of laborers recently from \$3.50 to \$4 a day, that was only because of a Nevada state minimum wage

law which says they cannot pay less. The standards of the workers are being rapidly and unreasonably lowered on a project over which our government has supervision.

\* \* \*

"We feel that it is a crime against humanity to ask men to work in that hell hole of heat at Boulder Dam for a mere pittance, just enough to keep their bellies full and clothes on their backs. If labor conditions at Boulder Dam are permitted to go on as they are, we believe it is going to affect labor like a cancer."

**William S. Wattis, president of the Six Companies, Inc., in a newspaper interview, The Union Labor News, August 18, 1931.**

"We will not discuss the matter with them [the workers]. They will work under our conditions or they will not work at all."

**Frank T. Crowe, superintendent of the Six Companies, Inc., Washington Post, August 10, 1931.**

"We are six months ahead of schedule on the work now, and we can afford to refuse concessions."

[The workers had just presented a demand for better wages, safety measures, and more sanitary and healthy living conditions. They were met with a complete lockout over the entire project.]

**Edmund Wilson, The New Republic, September 2, 1931.**

"The men met the representatives of the companies Sunday morning and when they stated their demands \* \* \* they were told to pack up their things and get out.

"In the meantime, the companies had sent trucks and men with sawed-off shotguns to drive the strikers out of the river camp. \* \* \* The sawed-off shotguns and tear-gas guns were taken away [by a U. S. marshal] from the companies who were making all preparations to fight the strikers with the conventional terroristic methods. Dynamite was found on two mysterious men who tried to enter the reservation as prospectors. \* \* \*

"On Tuesday night it became known that the government was going to put them off the reservation the next morning. \* \* \*

"They assent and climb into the trucks and are removed to a place on the desert halfway between Boulder City and Las Vegas, where the strikers have gotten permission to camp.

"By this time it is pouring rain and it makes the government drivers feel uncomfortable. They say they are sorry to have to move the boys in the rain."

**C. M. Feider, I. B. E. W. representative, official report to International Vice President H. P. Brigaerts, August 19, 1931.**

"Rather than discuss the situation with their employees and deal with them collectively, the Six Companies ruthlessly dumped 1,400 men and their families on the small town of Las Vegas in a desert where the men and women were compelled to sleep in the open desert on what the workers aptly called the Hoover Blankets, meaning discarded newspapers and gunny-sacks. \* \* \*

"The strike has been called off; most of the men who were locked out are being re-employed, but the fear of God, hunger and distress have been put into their hearts and they have been taught the lesson that if any one or any group of the employees

dare utter their resentment or complain against conditions, immediately they will be dumped on the desert."

### CALIFORNIA TURNS TO ALL-ELECTRIC HOUSES

(Continued from page 73)

Doubles	87.68
Large	124.72
All classes	62.31

Average yearly cost per cubic foot of apartment space:

Singles	.0107897
Doubles	.0139477

This building shows an average cost per occupied apartment of \$6.47 per month for heating and cooking, and it is readily seen that the average rate is less than one cent per kilowatt hour. This building has a great deal of exposure, being tall and narrow with large window spaces, practically all outside rooms, and no surrounding buildings high enough to cut off the wind.

The Bureau of Power and Light offers the service of its engineers on lighting and heating problems confronting architects and builders.

What is being done on the west coast is no doubt a forecast of rapid changes throughout the nation in apartment building.

### CONSTRUCTIVE HINTS

(Continued from page 84)

disc shaft and the first gear in the register. The worm shaft runs in a vertical position, and has a polished steel tip on the lower end which rotates on a sapphire jewel. The usual position of the worm is on the first shaft of the register. The reason for this position is that the worm is a relatively poor transmitting mechanism, particularly at high speeds.

**Cover.** The cover is made either of glass or drawn metal. The metal cover is light and strong. Both covers are fitted with suitable gaskets to keep out dust and moisture. The case and covers are designed to prevent tampering.

**Adjustments.** The OB single-phase meter has no mechanical adjustments. All parts are designed and manufactured so that they fit only in their correct places. Parts of similar meters are entirely interchangeable.

The power-factor adjustment is predetermined and fixed so that correct compensation for power factor and temperature is obtained without the necessity for any adjustment.

The light load adjustment is made by turning a micrometer screw. The full load adjustment consists of a laminated iron keeper which is mounted on a vertical screw above the permanent magnet air gap. This micrometer adjuster is mounted permanently in the alloy casting which holds the two magnets. When correct adjustment is obtained, the position of the adjuster is maintained by a set screw.

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Account Book, Treasurer's	1.00	Labels, Metal, per 100	1.75
Ballot Boxes, each	1.50	Labels, Paper, per 100	.30
Buttons, S. G. (medium)	1.75	Labels, large size for house wiring, per	.50
Buttons, S. G. (small)	1.50	Obligation Cards, double, per dozen	.25
Buttons, R. G.	.75	Paper, Official Letter, per 100	.25
Buttons, Cuff, R. G., per pair	2.50	Rituals, extra, each	.25
Button, Gold-faced Diamond Shaped	2.50	Receipt Book, Applicants (300 receipts)	2.40
Book, Minute for R. S. (small)	2.00	Receipt Book, Applicants (750 receipts)	4.80
Book, Minute for R. S. (large)	3.00	Receipt Book, Members (300 receipts)	2.40
Book, Day	1.50	Receipt Book, Members (750 receipts)	4.80
Book, Bell Call	1.50	Receipt Book, Miscellaneous (300 receipts)	2.40
Carbon for receipt books	.05	Receipt Book, Miscellaneous (750 receipts)	4.80
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Single Copies	.10	Receipt Holders, each	.25
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Ledger, Financial Secretary's, 100 pages	3.00		
Ledger, Financial Secretary's, 200 pages	4.50		
Ledger, Financial Secretary's, 400 pages	8.75		
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ADDRESS, G. M. BUGNIAZET, I. S.

**LOCAL UNION OFFICIAL RECEIPTS FROM DECEMBER  
11, 1931, TO JANUARY 10, 1932**

L. U.	NUMBERS	L. U.	NUMBERS	L. U.	NUMBERS	L. U.	NUMBERS	L. U.	NUMBERS
1. O.	33754	34900	73.	288477	288533	164.	73217	270.	681727
2.	486101	486240	75.	647706	647713	164.	437251	271.	74086
2.	144780	144782	76.	485373	486440	164.	140282	275.	32293
3.	O.	16744-17061	77.	426284	426433	164.	17436	275.	50182
3.	A-4-H.	4518-4549	77.	24679	24681	165.	654688	276.	354683
3.	A-J.	17945-18072	79.	243604	243688	167.	628885	278.	410766
3.	A-3H.	191	80.	68828	68861	169.	628893	280.	263041
3.	B-J.	318	81.	453751	453775	173.	23303	281.	402054
3.	C-J.	826	81.	180713	180750	174.	620122	283.	701700
3.	D-J.	16-20	82.	269779	269884	175.	72943	284.	4496
3.	O-A.	1144-1182	83.	404524	404897	175.	18658	284.	442501
3.	X-G.	4280-4424	84.	454501	454764	176.	13505	285.	38879
4.	39068	39084	84.	126742	126750	176.	335248	286.	639458
5.	438141	439500	86.	222911	223016	177.	67065	288.	97165
5.	320	321	86.	389948	390156	178.	18993	290.	88501
6.	141077	141088	86.	7919	7929	180.	48625	292.	424966
6.	331353	331501	87.	679266	679275	180.	164888	292.	144001
7.	14081		88.	721042	721066	181.	363176	293.	72041
7.	375760	375988	90.	257196	257250	183.	261824	295.	31304
8.	173821	173858	90.	444001	444058	184.	444346	296.	18735
9.	347091	347690	94.	690677	690680	185.	484584	298.	231393
10.	20856	20869	96.	196287	196364	186.	34583	300.	966855
11.	449251	449391	96.	244501	244640	187.	46620	301.	273823
11.	352227	352500	96.	187485	187500	188.	423465	302.	703082
11.	196751	196782	96.	18634	18663	190.	34968	303.	528289
12.	801010	801025	98.	113251	114750	191.	260096	305.	27575
14.	37010	37020	98.	101131	101250	191.	615301	305.	618901
15.	863928	863935	98.	254526	255330	193.	57745	306.	65061
17.	488251	488800	98.	136501	138470	193.	147806	306.	67505
17.	50780	50781	98.	90311	90327	193.	134468	307.	680809
18.	481715	482017	99.	393308	393460	194.	260789	308.	378794
18.	132805	132836	99.	126751	126751	194.	24924	308.	11121
20.	24393	24395	100.	108260	108262	194.	31	309.	513751
20.	7610		101.	284314	284320	195.	423001	309.	328442
20.	192157	192251	103.	310391	311112	195.	298491	309.	328500
20.	185086	185150	103.	31533	31534	196.	131314	311.	126228
21.	253597	253618	103.	15958	15995	197.	583772	311.	265926
22.	228226	228494	103.	126522	126528	200.	509318	312.	75067
23.	374006	374149	104.	362671	362860	203.	630630	313.	448519
26.	75631	75636	104.	89403	89404	204.	237245	313.	200291
26.	374450	374523	105.	350446	350488	205.	174245	316.	705317
26.	392220	392545	105.	189341	189345	208.	191685	317.	112844
26.	106887	106115	106.	187685	187726	208.	199552	318.	62092
27.	869217	869230	106.	71862	71895	209.	266824	318.	446
28.	36636	36663	108.	117321	117332	210.	450856	319.	114514
28.	360218	360506	109.	41201	41210	211.	41691	319.	114524
28.	1624	1654	110.	495797	496057	211.	133391	322.	449
30.	602536	602570	111.	259321	259328	211.	441751	323.	585248
31.	59714	59723	113.	53720	53758	213.	45731	324.	43715
32.	597073	597081	113.	27930	27934	213.	151118	325.	245577
33.	63027	63033	114.	48050	48082	213.	131274	328.	71502
34.	195446	195449	116.	18201	18250	214.	32231	329.	55549
34.	60285	60302	116.	91490	91500	214.	415136	329.	222456
35.	33247	33288	116.	37202	37208	214.	674482	332.	28509
35.	303230	303336	116.	491251	491332	215.	69949	332.	351011
36.	50491	50505	117.	37124	37144	216.	833150	333.	328355
36.	21019		120.	318801	318817	217.	56138	334.	691279
38.	380503	380832	121.	654064	654071	225.	73227	335.	622648
38.	136504	136506	122.	422416	422505	226.	232844	336.	636584
38.	52698	52705	124.	507751	508360	229.	654480	338.	703886
39.	432001	432138	124.	2292	2307	230.	94493	339.	185760
39.	16217		125.	340134	340500	230.	511501	341.	486884
39.	271446	271500	125.	420751	420842	231.	776365	342.	589386
40.	134170	134241	127.	857254	857264	232.	43976	343.	391011
40.	418265	418464	129.	700251	700256	232.	43994	343.	391292
41.	23204	23205	129.	198610	198623	233.	18573	344.	40818
41.	72648	72657	129.	314641	314662	233.	74416	345.	23572
42.	629216	629233	130.	480168	480263	235.	656285	345.	185711
43.	431271	431368	130.	89901	89926	236.	601311	346.	486952
44.	61266	61273	131.	773406	773436	237.	68502	347.	501
45.	13025	13031	132.	691820	691823	238.	70878	348.	123020
46.	258481	258750	133.	316488	316500	239.	678550	349.	391011
46.	29168	29170	133.	440251	440257	240.	857875	349.	195040
47.	45102	451113	135.	859632	859649	241.	131190	350.	77111
48.	4928	4930	136.	308096	308209	242.	730478	351.	1037
48.	19111	19119	136.	222216	222297	243.	138899	352.	1045
48.	323806	324020	137.	215772	215777	244.	704406	353.	153374
50.	222153	222154	138.	268715	268753	245.	137811	353.	98396
50.	45867	45900	139.	249221	249261	246.	190176	353.	98414
50.	617401	617405	141.	16495	16495	246.	194756	353.	195174
51.	48406	48450	143.	301604	318069	247.	318088	354.	501
53.	403095	403153	143.	6611	6620	248.	29310	355.	655518
54.	845071	845083	145.	131524	131558	248.	143114	356.	638616
54.	206851	206853	145.	405001	405044	250.	616341	356.	653266
55.	802610	802625	145.	230974	231000	251.	63936	357.	53449
56.	187830	187832	146.	58520	58528	252.	149797	357.	106172
56.	453006	453057	150.	55240	55277	254.	43304	358.	106209
57.	172846	172863	151.	152106	152106	255.	56617	358.	527
59.	327627	327686	151.	493501	493549	256.	200731	359.	490610
60.	447126	447200	151.	47706	47706	256.	300964	360.	520
65.	483841	484020	151.	417605	417750	257.	60026	360.	649556
66.	492751	492820	152.	26411	26440	258.	63936	361.	649572
66.	34537		153.	931713	931732	259.	63945	362.	624289
66.	416121	416250	154.	841915	841923	259.	5485	362.	624301
67.	30229	30248	155.	299831	299840	260.	34175	363.	107183
68.	59418	59419	156.	57961	57974	261.	38174	364.	107251
68.	146351	146364	159.	25716	25752	265.	263338	364.	48718
68.	292991	293090	161.	12807	12828	267.	60965	365.	48747
69.	532799	532805	163.	170032	170081	268.	417480	366.	107183
70.	659141	659148	164.	217181	217472	269.	236227	368.	28993
72.	958404	958427	164.	371761	372000	269.	134251	369.	162699
						269.	134297	370.	169096

L. U.	NUMBERS	L. U.	NUMBERS	L. U.	NUMBERS	L. U.	NUMBERS	L. U.	NUMBERS
538	94849	94870	636	42902	772	702329	702334	1047	169156
538	26433	26436	640	334709	773	21572	21600	1054	37287
539	908142	908148	640	33314	773	77401	77403	1057	482473
540	72718	72748	642	142124	774	78001	78634	1072	858629
544	196297	196391	646	47435	774	799826	799850	1086	341382
545	617103	617126	648	455251	784	56492	56523	1087	19574
549	129810	129811	648	107977	784	223651	1091	40685	40704
552	95419	95430	649	217387	787	916355	916365	1095	69102
555	899180	899192	654	2505	792	707176	707187	1099	787649
556	339752	339763	655	13333	798	954633	954656	1101	341720
557	49221	49231	656	17604	802	674899	675509	1105	658240
558	621488	621496	658	39385	809	49541	49549	1108	*23063
559	610401	610413	660	65881	811	64550	64553	1118	7670
560	22520		661	205838	818	694684	694688	1131	38499
560	5236	5256	664	11021	819	75616	75625	1135	614216
561	393751	393785	665	144062	820	50542	50554	1144	533979
561	247131	247500	665	278	825	80179	80187	1147	59121
561	11750		665	615001	838	68685	68708	1151	459951
561	66707		666	106471	840	664892	664900	1154	40438
564	740796	740801	666	452251	850	742238	742250	1156	369246
564	27016		666	65131	854	205168	205210	1169	38510
565	902981	902993	667	205051	855	4142	4153	1177	107217
566	65443	65450	667	51939	857	682816	683836	1196	3304
567	10551	10560	668	74553	858	139966	139993	1209	27800
567	375086	375210	669	241625	862	11969	11990	1210	456003
568	193526	193528	670	175841	863	46328	46342	1218	446463
568	305135	305237	673	13986	864	242646	242742	1224	251027
569	403722	403781	677	122774	865	266794	266794	1232	132
570	16120	16139	677	20125	869	441013	441025	1248	144864
571	32524	32540	679	650171	870	202918	202950	1258	872
572	263224	26328	680	706231	873	364378	364386	1263	63941-63944
574	28210		680	144623	874	664311	664325	1273	501-30496
574	332435	332516	681	458186	885	57309	57354	1283	614, 683
575	9893	9900	683	66830	885	30624		1293	283635
575	74701	74714	685	41599	890	706422	706424	1303	165531
576	74111	74115	685	225451	892	35601	35617	1313	40580
576	204451	Original	686	177071	890	597760	597763	1323	377-107217
577	33756	33770	688	18649	892	55005	55047	1333	3304
580	52532	52546	691	6759	897	61539	61545	1343	27800
583	30895	30900	694	316154	912	305751	305850	1353	446463
583	616501	616521	695	58836	914	169765	169777	1363	251027
583	26101	26110	699	42071	915	75901	75907	1373	132
584	202401	202497	700	29771	918	21978	22014	1383	144864
584	58415	58500	702	492235	919	59343	59345	1393	872
584	242401	242410	707	196024	922	21671	21680	1403	63941-63944
586	396091	710	653625	653662	927	15568	15590	1413	501-30496
588	179636	179678	711	292297	929	669699	669722	1423	614, 683
591	695808	695823	712	368276	940	217966	217963	1433	283635
593	2861	2888	713	61391	948	31551	31552	1443	165531
594	691677	691690	713	421731	948	188775	188775	1453	40580
595	198648	198750	713	3094	948	241703	241732	1463	377-107217
595	479251	479274	716	286041	953	36459	36467	1473	3304
596	440577	440582	716	321231	956	632968	632977	1483	27800
599	924792	924807	717	2509847	958	657345	657350	1493	446463
600	1645	1648	717	9715	963	38695	38702	1503	144864
601	148578	148580	719	63496	969	634224	634232	1513	872
601	38071	38087	722	16107	970	694543	694557	1523	63941-63944
603	620866	620870	723	278724	971	443141	443144	1533	501-30496
607	600996	601000	725	231854	972	665169	665175	1543	617403
607	78001	78005	728	66044	987	976440	976447	1553	84043
611	142826	142870	729	14832	991	677166	677173	1563	744211-245
613	43508	43515	731	460444	995	41891	41915	1573	283635
613	388242	388419	734	361159	996	197721		1583	3304
617	100221	100274	734	52808	996	626496	626508	1593	27800
618	22554	22555	735	663229	1002	337666	337695	1603	446463
619	675483	675493	743	250089	1021	970786	970800	1613	63941-63944
623	90360	90380	757	32099	1024	301846	301918	1623	501-30496
625	445509	445536	757	615601	1025	973126	973132	1633	614, 683
629	210444	210480	760	72337	1032	768140	768158	1643	283635
631	945179	945214	762	75301	1036	446120	446132	1653	377-107217
632	73546	73564	763	26327	1037	277026	277155	1663	3304
636	123517	123554	770	308454	1037	129807	129808	1673	27800

## HIGH WAGES DON'T MEAN HIGH LIVING COSTS

(Continued from page 68)

tional Labor Office is to emphasize the gap between the wage level here and abroad. It is, in other words, a highly bullish report for the American wage level. For if the cost of living in Europe is close to the American level, nominal or money wages should likewise be close together; yet the facts are quite otherwise, as shown by the second column of figures above.

### Materials High, Labor Low

The report in another way is merely a statistical verification of what every American who has lived abroad knows, namely, that aside from cost of domestic help, it costs nearly as much to live in western and northern Europe as in the United States. For two and a half years the writer lived in Geneva, Switzerland, with his family—husband, wife and three children, a standardized American family—only to be sadly dis-

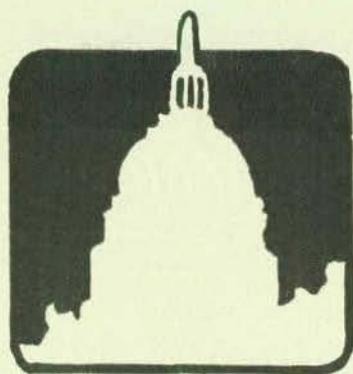
illusioned as to his living like a prince on an American salary paid by the International Labor Office of the League of Nations. It was a lesson in economics and proof of what our long-since-forgotten textbooks on economics used to tell us, that material costs in Europe are high and labor costs low. Differences in tastes and traditions as to living are vividly brought out in the report. Scarcely any working man in Europe has a bathroom in his house, nor would he care to spend extra money for that purpose. In Europe the men wear the more expensive and better quality clothes, and the International Labor Office found it difficult to get prices on the samples of clothing worn by the workers' wives and daughters in Detroit, the quality being so much above that worn by the European women, whose clothes are still predominantly made in the home. This was even more so in the case of children's clothes in Europe. Does this suggest that the American man tends to make more of

his woman companion than does his European brother (under the skin)?

Some amusing contrasts in the cost of various items in the budget appear, as revealed in the table below:

City	Cost of Street Car Pass., Cents.	Cost of Parchment Clear- ettes, Cents.	Cost of Haircut, Cents.
Berlin	.06	.22	.19
Copenhagen	.05	.19	.27
Stockholm	.02	.13	.45
Helsingfors	.03	.08	.23
Paris	.05	....	.20
Marseilles	.05	.10	.16
Antwerp	.02	.05	.12
Rotterdam	.04	....	.10
Manchester	.03	.20	.14
Cork	.04	.24	.24
Warsaw	.03	.12	.15
Barcelona	.08	.08	.11
Istanbul	.05	.06	.10

The report, in short, is a mine of curious information concerning the way in which urban workers in Europe from semi-arctic Scandinavia to semi-tropical Spain spend their meager earnings.



## Now More Than Ever



- ¶ Now more than ever, one must read and think.
- ¶ The stock crash of 1929 marked the end of an era—the post-war era.
- ¶ Great changes are in the making. This was true following the panic of 1893, when business entered upon an era of huge consolidations and combinations.
- ¶ What today's changes are have not yet become clear, but they are destined to be of importance to all working people.
- ¶ The Electrical Workers' Journal has won a reputation for getting the facts and interpreting them.
- ¶ It is capable of describing today's great changes so that you will see their significance dramatically.
- ¶ Read your Journal this month and every month in 1932.

**Electrical Workers Journal**



A HUNDRED traveling salesmen were required to report weekly on the condition of the by-product fruit crop in grain territory. The house had observed that when grain crop was profitable, the farmer bought tools and machinery, but if the fruit crop was good, the proceeds were the wife's perquisite; she bought manicure sets and kitchen utensils, and this house was ready with the goods in the neighborhood store.

Industries lean on one another like the walls in a house of cards—to hold one another up or to push one another prostrate.

—OTTO T. MALLERY.

